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*We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.*

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The celebration of the birthday of King Alfonso XIII. may be taken as real evidence that republican sentiment in Spain has for the time lost its militancy. No doubt both the Government and the Opposition had a conscious object in organising the rejoicings, which were a reply to the venomous outburst from the Jacobin press some months ago against the whole régime. Accident too had something to do with the popular rejoicings in Madrid, which was full of visitors for the Cervantes tercentenary. But the chivalry of which Cervantes wrote the epilogue is not a dead quality in Spaniards; and something either in the youth or kingliness of the young King has made the loyalty of the nation more conspicuous during the three years of his reign than in all the sixteen years under the Queen Regent.

Lord Selborne, who landed in Cape Town on Tuesday, has as yet had no opportunity to do more than respond in necessary platitudes to the welcome of the Mayor. His speech was significantly short. Cape Town has lost that personal absorption in the interests of the Transvaal which was a chief danger in the situation when Lord Milner was appointed. Lord Selborne will not have an easy problem to solve, but he will have other difficulties than his predecessor's. Indeed Lord Milner felt strongly that his experience of the hurly-burly put him out of court for the new work. The Transvaal is no longer the hub of South Africa, not, at any rate, in the sinister sense of the past; and its politics may now be considered a more or less isolated problem. Lord Selborne's trouble will be to make the Boers see this. The Boers have one thing in common with the old Greeks, the vanity which convinced them that "the navel of the world" was their little territory.

The change in South African politics was also illustrated by a debate in the House of Lords, more or less simultaneous with Lord Selborne's landing. Even the Bishop of Hereford was moderated and the Archbishop confessed that he had so studied the subject that

he could hardly venture to fetter his impartiality by holding an opinion. The debate was relieved from dullness by a little speech of Lord Minto. He has seen a good deal of the Chinese coolie along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway; and very properly snubbed those prigs who are fond of alluding to the nameless vices of the Chinese. Lord Minto found them good, decent, hard-working citizens. They were very useful in Canada and the Duke of Marlborough's figures are conclusive argument of their value to the prosperity of the white population in the Transvaal.

If one might believe the "Times", the Russians are making arrangements as if it were a certain thing that Admiral Rojdestvensky would presently find himself with his fleet in Vladivostok. Admiral Biriloff, we are told, is leaving S. Petersburg to take up the command in the town and relieve Rojdestvensky when he arrives. Yet another week has passed without a single word of Admiral Togo or his fleet; our admiration for the efficiency of the organisation which makes this possible grows continually. The probability grows that the two Russian admirals have joined forces; and if it is true that Admiral Rojdestvensky has finally left Hon-kohe Bay, scarcely another convenient halting place is open to him. He may have to resort to Chinese ports, which of course would bring on an action. The reports of the illness of the admiral may be disregarded. It is more than improbable, even if he were ill, that trustworthy information on such a point should reach Europe, when even such a big event as the junction with Nebogatoff is not certainly known.

There are parties in France whose hostility to Russia makes them as indiscreet in forcing the question of neutrality into undue prominence as have been certain of our journals here. Opponents of the Russian alliance, and enemies of M. Delcassé, have been striving to force the hand of the Government by obtaining a day for the general discussion of the question in the Chamber; but the attempt was defeated by a large majority. The Prime Minister repeated the assurances that precise instructions and formal orders had already been given to enforce respect for neutrality. There could be nothing but disadvantage in a popular assembly discussing such a subject instead of leaving it to be managed by the diplomatists. M. de Pressensé's reference to the proceedings in our own Parliament was against his own motion as there was no debate here. In the meantime Tokio is said to have been again excited over a report that the Baltic fleet returned to

Hon-kohe Bay three days after it had left; but the French Admiral Jonquières states that there are no Russian ships on the coast. According to a telegram from Saigon the Russian fleet did actually reappear "off" Hon-kohe Bay but left again almost immediately.

The diplomatic position in Morocco is coming to a head. The three missions are now together in Fez. Count von Tattenbach was received with special marks of ceremonial courtesy last week; Mr. Lowther submitted his credentials on the same day; and a report, too pat to the occasion to be probable, was published in Germany that all the French proposals had been refused by the Maghzan on the score of their interference with international treaties. The "Cologne Gazette" is not very likely to have special knowledge of so important a decision, which is suspiciously agreeable with the paper's own policy. But no doubt the unusual escort and reception of the German ambassador was a diplomatic hint that German interests would be played off by the Moorish Government against French demands. Along the Algerian frontiers it is to everyone's interest that France should have authority, and she will have no difficulty in getting Moorish aid for the better policing of this frontier. For the rest Morocco has as little love of being penetrated as other countries; and in her national sentiment lies German opportunity.

We trust that the "Times" correspondent at Constantinople is right in saying that the British Embassy is employing its good offices to secure some further concessions on behalf of the Smyrna-Aidin railway. British influence with the Sultan is at the present moment not quite so powerful as that of certain other Powers, and Germany in this case will be by no means favourable to our demand. The Smyrna-Aidin line is best known to British travellers as that by which they visit the ruins of Ephesus, and its importance as a trade artery for the richest district of Asia Minor is not evident to the casual visitor in the early months of the year, but in the summer as many as ten goods trains in the day fully laden run down to Smyrna. The line (though a short one) traverses a tract of country where both corn and tobacco are of the highest quality. This railway has no guarantee, but the excellent management and the fine country it taps enable it to pay a good percentage. When it was in low water a few years ago a German syndicate attempted to buy it, but the attempt failed; so it is now alleged that the desired extension will interfere with German enterprise elsewhere. That is not so, and for the sake of the country itself we hope that the arguments of our ambassador may prove convincing.

The difference between Mr. Roosevelt and a group in the Republican party over the contracts for the Panama Canal is a matter of private business with which other nations have no particular concern. We have no feelings one way or the other, though it is a fair ground of inference from our knowledge of both parties that if Mr. Roosevelt believes that the American companies are trying to squeeze an unlawful profit out of their own Government, he is not far wrong; and the Panama Commission is quite justified in refusing preference to American contractors whose prices are 30 per cent. bigger than they should be. But an interesting point, at least in fiscal phraseology, is raised. Tariff reformer in the United States means exactly the opposite of tariff reformer in England. The one wishes to reduce duties, the other to impose them. Yet in spite of this difference the policy of the tariff reformers in the two countries is in effect almost identical: the subtraction which American tariff reformers desire would bring the duties to the sort of moderate standard at which English tariff reformers are aiming. The action of Mr. Roosevelt and the Panama Commission will have the immediate effect of greatly strengthening the revisionists; the more so as Mr. Taft is entirely with the President.

Lord Kitchener has thought well to deny the busy inferences drawn from his known dispute with the Government on an administrative and to some extent

personal point. At his wish the Viceroy issued on Wednesday an official statement to the effect that on the general military policy in India and the more definite proposals for organising the Indian army no dispute has arisen between the Government and the Commander-in-Chief. It is to be hoped the rumours will be quashed by the statement. The origin of all of them is Lord Kitchener's objection to the existing system by which the military member of the Council is put out of proper relation to his Commander-in-Chief, and his dislike of this anomaly is no new thing. A number of Indian soldiers have maintained in the past that friction must result if the military member in Council and the Commander-in-Chief were antipathetic. The political relation between the Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief is not always easy in England; but the position in India, which is more or less parallel, is this much worse, that the military member in Council is not a civilian but a subordinate officer to the Commander-in-Chief.

At the Royal Geographical Society on Monday last Major Ryder told the story of the little party of explorers who, on the return from Lhasa, struck west from Gyantse and made their way along the northern face of the Himalayas finally crossing the range and emerging at Simla. This route has never before been traversed by any European, and the interest of the narrative is all the greater that it had not like the Lhasa expedition been already anticipated by press correspondents and official papers. Major Ryder followed the Brahmaputra to its source, solving the vexed question of the outflow from the mysterious Mansarawar and Rakas lakes and thence tracing the course of the Satlej from its sources down to its passage through the Himalayas into British territory. Gartok, the new trade station, was visited and found to be at that season a few hovels in a desolate and forbidding plain. The record is of fine work modestly told. It included a well-deserved tribute to the intrepid native surveyors, who have supplied nearly all that has hitherto been known of those regions. The party travelling without escort were everywhere hospitably received and established friendly relations with the Tibetans. The gold medal of the Society has been awarded to Major Ryder.

Nobody will be likely to deny the duty of finding work for soldiers when they leave the colours; and the Duke of Connaught, who presided at Tuesday's meeting of the association formed for this purpose, proved easily that good work had been done. But such an association can only hope to tinker a state of things inseparable from our system of service. In one sense our army is all volunteer, and the men who so volunteer get moderate remuneration for what they are entitled to call their patriotism. No doubt they know when they enter the army what they are in for, but this does not quite absolve the Government from its duties to its retired servants. An "old pensioner" is still a common term of contempt in England; and this attitude to men, who are rather more honest and intelligent than others, is encouraged by the practical exclusion of ex-soldiers from many departments of Government employment. If we may not have universal service we may at least expect that discouragements to enlistment shall not be advertised; and last year in all Government offices, exclusive of the War Office, only nine soldiers were employed.

Lord Wemyss is fond of entertaining his House by motions out-of-the-way. And he does it extremely well. We could not say any other purpose was served by his demand on the Government to publish the Duke of Wellington's famous letter to Sir John Burgoyne on the national defences. This letter was written in 1847 when the Duke was a very old man. It is notorious that the Duke, both as Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, was remiss in providing for the needs of the army. As Prime Minister he reduced the artillery wholesale and virtually extinguished the commissariat. Then he seems to have had serious misgivings; hence his letter to Sir John Burgoyne, the Inspector-General of Fortifications, saying he knew no mode of resistance or protection from the danger of invasion but by "an



army in the field capable of meeting and contending with its formidable enemy".

We are inclined to think Lord Wemyss would have done better to ask for the publication of Lord Overstone's celebrated letter, the text of which is little known to-day. As a leading financier of the time, Lord Overstone was asked his opinion on the national defences, considered from a financial standpoint; and in reply he describes in an admirable manner the disastrous effect which the mere fact of a landing, no matter how small, on these shores would have on the national credit and financial system.

Every beginner in journalism and politics must be ready with the saying that the Irish Chief Secretaryship is the grave of political reputation. It is strange that people who as a rule keep a firm grasp on the obvious should speak thus about the office whenever it is vacant or its occupant is in difficulty. Mr. Lowther and Sir William Hart Dyke did not bury their nerve there, nor Mr. Arthur Balfour and Mr. Morley their reputation. Does anybody really imagine that Mr. Wyndham is no more as a statesman? The only excuse for the saying indeed is to be sought in the fact that Sir George Trevelyan's hair changed colour early in life. We do not believe that there is the least danger of Mr. Walter Long's doing this. If he can only continue to act as a kind of buffer of imperturbability between Nationalists and Government, he will make a reputation not bury it. One of the more exciting Irish M.P.'s was slightly incommoded by the police in Ireland the other day. In the House Mr. Dillon by a slight effort of imagination turned this into "hustling". An Orange M.P. tried to make a scene, and a case of brutal batoning necessitating an adjournment might have been discovered. But Mr. Long presents a front of blunt common sense. He explains in the most natural way in the world that he has nothing to explain; and the incident closes.

The illness of the Speaker is a matter of general regret. The Speaker is a singular figure of our public life. In a House of hustle more or less, the Speaker is a bulwark not only for historic tradition, not alone for the constitution of the country, but for the constitution of the man. He stands for perfect gentlemanliness, not for that detestable simulacrum of it, gentility. The patriarch to-day of the Tory party in some bad verses full of good feeling once pleaded for the retention of "our old nobility" even if the constitution, learning and all else must go. We doubt whether it is practicable to retain this class. Too many people make fortunes by whisky, colonial frozen meat and swindling or honest mine shares: they support some party or other with whacking cheques and must be made peers. But we do keep the Speakership clean from all taint of the more crass success, although it is in the midst of all that makes for these unpleasing ways and changes.

Mr. Gully has not the grand style of his predecessor, and at the time he was chosen it was felt that Mr. Leonard Courtney would have filled the chair with a more commanding air. But when there was serious talk among the Conservatives of choosing a new Speaker—certainly not Mr. Courtney—on Lord Salisbury coming into power again, Mr. Jimmy Lowther at once made a strong and effective protest, and Mr. Gully was accepted without demur. Should Mr. Gully retire at the end of this session and Parliament, which is surely very probable, and the Liberals come in, they will naturally return the Conservatives the compliment and choose one of their opponents for the office. In this way the Speakership is kept above party. Sir Michael Hicks Beach in character, record, and presence is of this stamp, but failing him it is not very easy to say where another Peel or Brand could be found.

Lord Halsbury proved his youth in a very vigorous speech on taking up his new office of Warden of the Guild of Undergraduates at Birmingham University. It was pleasant to find the Lord Chancellor urging the need of a chair of Greek—at present lumped with Latin—and still more pleasant to have Mr. Chamberlain, the chancellor of the university, on the side of the angels in supporting it. This is no surprise, however, for he

made his position as to Greek quite plain a long time since. The welfare of English education will depend in an increasing degree on these new establishments, and it is wholly satisfactory that the chancellor of the greatest of them should give his vote on behalf of humane letters.

With this proviso, everyone will accept his chief aim "to teach science as it had never been taught"; and if that means to teach science as an integral branch of knowledge and philosophy it may help to fulfil this ideal of "the education of a gentleman". Science has never been well taught in England. On the technical side it has so failed that the Germans and in a smaller degree the Americans have entirely defeated us in invention; and to give another illustration than the Lord Chancellor's, the making of scientific instruments, once almost an English monopoly, has gone entirely to Germany. Nor has this technical inferiority been compensated by any attempt to avoid excessive specialising. Mr. Chamberlain's emphasis on the encouragement of research is a good sign of a better conception at Birmingham of the scope and value of the subject. We deal elsewhere with Mr. Chamberlain's speech on Wednesday to trade-unionist tariff reformers.

When the life of Lord Salisbury is written, the public will learn perhaps to view Lord Halsbury in quite new light. Lord Salisbury and Lord Halsbury were close political associates, and the Prime Minister greatly valued the advice of the Chancellor. Besides, the rough, direct unconventionality of Lord Halsbury appealed to Lord Salisbury. When a bill was in committee for a few minutes in the House of Lords the two friends often met on the Woolsack or the front bench. If only some Landor had been present to get the manner and subject of talk—what an addition to "Imaginary Conversations"!

The Cheltenham Ladies' College celebrated its jubilee on Saturday last by the opening of a new wing containing "a really complete installation for science teaching". Lord Londonderry has no particular connexion with Cheltenham, but apart from his official position he was quite the right man to open the building. If one does not habitually think of Lord Londonderry as a pioneer, he has certainly been in the front of a woman's movement. When Miss Beale, who stands as the chief pioneer of woman's education, was organising this most successful of colleges, Lord Londonderry was known as one of the few who perpetually urged in Parliament the wisdom of appointing women on local bodies. The accomplishment of Miss Beale is not likely to be forgotten. She has been principal of the college for forty-seven years, but her contribution to women's education exceeds even the length of her service to Cheltenham.

The London Diocesan Conference has by its resolution on the divorce question cleared London Churchmen from any responsibility for Dr. Tristram's licences (alias indulgences) for the remarriage of the divorced. The doctor, an ex-officio member of the conference, said never a word. The old-fashioned vendor of Indulgences our old friend Tetzel had more pluck. We only wish that the resolution would force the Chancellor's resignation, but we expect no such luck. In the course of the conference's discussion the point was raised whether the innocent party to a divorce should on remarrying be refused the Communion. In the present state of civil law and having regard to Eastern practice we should not blame a clergyman who in such a case acted on the Lambeth resolution and took the merciful course. But the church is not a place for such "remarriages". It is curious how angry the "Daily News" is on the subject. We always thought that the Nonconformist conscience claims a monopoly of morality. It would seem by its latest revelations when it talks of morality it means bourgeois respectability, a very different thing.

Lord Welby's County Council Budget statement does not give much satisfaction to the alarmists who have exaggerated some of Lord Welby's previous statements on County Council finance. He is not uneasy about the growth of the Council's debt, and he is

satisfied with its position in the money market. His inference is that the money borrowed has been judiciously laid out and the Council's undertakings well administered. Deducting remunerative debt, the net debt is £38,000,000. He is satisfied with the expenditure on the tramways which are a paying concern though their primary stages are the most expensive. They have not cost the ratepayers sixpence, but on the contrary the benefit from them has been over £300,000. He suggests that in future the profits ought to contribute an annual sum to the relief of the rates.

Since 1895 the rates for general administration have risen by twopence in the pound; and Lord Welby makes an elaborate analysis to show that this is not due to extravagance in administration but to changes in financial arrangements between the Imperial Government and the Council, under which the Council have been losers. If the same conditions prevailed now as in 1895, the rates would be about the same. Lord Welby bases on London's disadvantages a claim for reconstruction of the system of imperial and local taxation. But on education Lord Welby does express discontent. That rate ten years ago was 11½d. in the pound; it is now a penny more than the rate for the whole general administration. And after this financial year of 1905-6, owing to recent charges by the Education Act and the Council's scholarships, an additional threepence in the pound will be required. Lord Welby suggested some plan for limiting expenditure on education, and Sir W. J. Collins agreed that this should be considered, especially in regard to higher education.

The progress of the Raunds bootmakers to London was treated by the public much as the Stock Exchange walk to Brighton. Quite as many photographs were taken and rather more uninstructed gaping indulged. The strikers encouraged this attitude as soon as they reached London. On Saturday they advanced to the Trafalgar Square reception, headed by an ad misericordiam cripple, whose crutches moved to the tune of the "Marseillaise". But what either the cripple or the Jacobin war-song had to do with the price given for boots by Government contractors was made clear neither by Mr. Keir Hardie nor Mr. Gribble. Nevertheless on the whole the walk was well managed, it proved entirely self-supporting and a grievance existed. Unhappily the advertisement has fired others. Among other threats a walk from Leicester is being arranged. Mr. Balfour is right to refuse to modify the proceedings of the House to meet demands which have a form of menace.

The virtual acquittal of Nan Patterson by the third undecided trial has rather helped to increase the morbid interest in the mystery. It is no use protesting against the press interviews and this sort of exploiting of a sensation; but even in America the open discussion of the case by one of the judges of the Supreme Court is felt to be a slur on the dignity of the Bar. Mr. Justice Davis, who presided at the first and second trials, went out of his way to tell a "social gathering of lawyers" that he thoroughly believed in the technical guilt of the girl who had "lied from beginning to end", and went on to explain what he thought actually happened, how the girl held the pistol and how it went off in the subsequent struggle. Miss Nan, who has a smart tongue, has not failed to comment on the completely irregular and even objectionable comments of a judge discussing the verdict in public. Even in Court it is considered a mistake for an English judge to express a disagreement with the jury, and it would be felt to be inexcusable if he carried the controversy outside.

Now it is Lord Lytton who joins in the hue and cry after Eton. The annual meeting of the Parents' Education Union on Wednesday gave him the opportunity to avow his passionate affection for his alma mater, whom he then accuses of wholly neglecting him. With great modesty Lord Lytton presents himself as the terrible example of what Eton is now turning out. Without any desire to flatter, we must say Eton might have done worse. Somehow it never occurs to all these critics of Eton, who lament their deficiencies with great humility, that possibly it is not in their school but in themselves that they are what they are.

#### EUROPE AND THE DUAL ALLIANCE.

WHETHER Englishmen are growing more light-minded we do not know, but it is certain that of late years both our loves and hates have been shortlived and wholly unreasoning. Only a few years separate us from Fashoda, and here we are bandying compliments with France and every week has its own suggestions for the better cementing of a friendship which five years ago we should have frowned on as unpatriotic. The whole story of the Entente only goes to prove that Bismarck's dictum as to alliances being the fruit of common interests and purposes is absolutely true, and that sentiment can never be a cementing element in the relations between Great Powers. The same is equally true with regard to the United States and ourselves, though the occasion has not yet come which shall give it prominence. In the arrangement with France we certainly gave much more than we received; but as the price we shall have to pay in Morocco is more remote than the satisfaction we felt at the cessation of petty annoyances the public rejoiced at the agreement into which we too hastily slipped.

It is unfortunate that enthusiasm for France should, as appears, be thought by most people here to demand an exhibition of especial hostility to other countries. The general tendency of our own Press would lead Continental observers to believe that we welcome the agreement with France less for its intrinsic benefits than because we think it annoys Germany or may tend to loosen the connexion between France and Russia. No unprejudiced person can deny that this amiable attitude is very general in this country. It is a childish form of favouritism, embarrassing even to its dear object. We may well doubt what the effect upon French sympathisers may be if M. Delcassé's resignation should unfortunately become an accomplished fact. Any change of attitude on the part of his successor might easily be misinterpreted on this side and lead to a perilous cooling of this sudden enthusiasm for French friendship, when our people discover that France has no intention of allowing the working arrangement with ourselves to overshadow the solid and permanent advantages of her alliance with Russia. The note struck by certain organs in our Press, who have been foremost in playing off France against Germany, when the question of her neutrality in the Far East was under discussion, came naturally somewhat as a surprise to Frenchmen, who had not grasped the bearing which some writers in this country expect our agreement with France to have on Franco-Russian relations. So far as French opinion connects the Entente with the Dual Alliance it is limited to the hope that Anglo-Russian relations may be improved. The idea that it is to supersede it has never been present to any mind with the slightest claim to statesmanship. So far as it may tend to keep France out of war it is welcome in that country, but all enthusiasm for it would vanish if once it were understood that we looked forward to France isolating herself in Europe for the sake of our platonic attachment.

However high may be the value placed by French politicians upon a good understanding with us, it is well to remember that they will not imperil the Russian alliance or allow France to be made a cat's-paw to pay off our scores against Germany. All the more will they avoid this trap because it is so obviously the line which Germany would welcome in the development of the situation. In the first place the present position of France in international affairs is due to the alliance with Russia. It not only restored the equilibrium of Europe but placed Germany in a highly precarious military position. The danger for her has been increased since France and Italy made friends. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the advantages to France arising from the fact that the eastern frontiers of Germany lie open to Russia. No assistance on sea can compensate for the loss of an ally whose first step in aid would undoubtedly be an incursion by land of a most formidable nature. Common sense indicates at once that any weakening in the Dual Alliance means an immediate drawing together of Germany and Russia. There are people in this country who assume that such an arrangement is part of the eternal fitness



of things: the "autocracies" of Eastern Europe should face the "democratic Powers" of the West. Unfortunately for sentimentalists of this sort methods of government have nothing to do with alliances. We could not offer France a true alliance to take the place of that with Russia if we would, and we never had any intention of doing so. The course of history has given France enmities and ambitions which we do not share or only partially, superficially, and for the moment. However much we may at this juncture dislike the trend of German policy we can never get away from the fact that our interests and hers are not in the end irreconcilable, while our rivalry with France in the Mediterranean is not dead but sleeping, just as our interests and those of Russia can only be satisfactorily adjusted if the latter abandons ambitions which are bound up with her national existence.

The whole tendency of French opinion during recent years, as we have pointed out again and again, is pacific, and that tendency is a growing one. The Dual Alliance has secured France against all fear of sudden and unprovoked attack from Germany and her allies, if such a policy had ever been contemplated by them. It is quite true that a few Chauvinistic spirits expected from it more than it would ever give—the abolition of the Treaty of Frankfurt. But the support of Russia has in fact not only insured France against the terrors of invasion and the revival of the unforgotten horrors of 1870, but it has also enabled her to speak with renewed might in the councils of Europe. Remove the connexion with Russia and Germany would take the first opportunity to strike the blow which would relieve her for ever of the menace on her western frontier, and nothing we could do would prevent it. Even if we were to plunge into a war, for which we have neither desire nor necessity, we could only harass German commerce which would do little to help France. On the other hand it is hardly necessary to point out that an alliance between Russia and Germany would not serve our interests in the Near or Far East.

It is then neither in the interests of England nor of Europe to desire the destruction or serious weakening of the Dual Alliance which has done much to maintain the peace of the world. They are rendering a poor service to France who insinuate that we might take the place of Russia if France would break away from her. England has no intention to undertake the dangers or responsibilities of that position and there is no reason of any kind, moral or material, why she should. This is perfectly well understood in responsible circles in France and therefore perhaps little harm can come of much irresponsible talk here, but it conveys an unfortunate impression of frivolous insincerity which does little to increase our prestige with foreign observers.

#### INVASION AND DEFENCE.

MR. BALFOUR destroyed the value of a highly intellectual argument on the greatest of national questions by basing it on a single figure, given by a single expert not specially equipped to form an opinion on the precise point in question. Whatever Lord Roberts' attainments and merits may be, it is certain that he has never devoted any serious thought to the invasion and defence of this country. Had his opinion been asked about Indian defence problems, then no doubt, owing to the length of his service and the high positions he has held in India, his opinion would be of weight. We have good ground for saying positively that during the long years Lord Roberts spent in India, before he became commander-in-chief of the army, his mind was wrapped up in the question of Indian defence, and that he had never considered seriously the larger imperial question. Moreover, all those who are familiar with his career at the War Office know that he did not give his mind to imperial defence as Commander-in-Chief. Indeed the solution or elucidation of complicated problems of any kind is not Lord Roberts' strong point. He is better at a speech than at putting his thoughts in writing; and so great is his prestige that no one on the Defence Committee—as at present constituted—would

presume to cross-examine him on his dicta—shall we say obiter dicta? We should very much like to know on what data and arguments he bases his opinion that an attempt on our shores would not be made with less than 70,000 men. We shrewdly suspect that no data or arguments exist at all. Mr. Balfour tells us that Lord Roberts' opinion is supported by the other military members. But this does not carry us very much further. Sir Neville Lyttelton and General Grierson are both excellent officers in their way. But neither can have given very exhaustive attention to the subject; and certainly neither would have the hardihood to oppose Lord Roberts. No doubt Mr. Balfour would say he relied on the advice of his experts. But that is not enough. He must see that he has the best experts of all schools and that their advice is independent. Did he consult Lord Wolseley, who for years has devoted much time and thought to questions of imperial defence? In effect Mr. Balfour's conclusions are a compromise between the blue-water school and its opponents; they are a blend of naval ideas with diplomatic fallacies.

Mr. Balfour divided his subject into three heads—home, colonial, and Indian. We shall deal with India another day. As to colonial defence, it is a pity Mr. Balfour did not deal with the whole problem, instead of only touching upon a few subsidiary points. He ignored altogether Canadian defence. Was that because it is the most difficult or, as some avow, an insoluble problem? Yet it is vital to the whole theory of imperial defence. For Canada Mr. Balfour relies entirely on diplomacy and American good feeling. He refuses to contemplate the possibility of war with America. But the history of all countries in all ages has shown such optimism to be purely illusory. On home defence Mr. Balfour's attitude is peculiar and not altogether logical. He does not accept completely the conclusions of the blue-water school, which assume that an enemy could not reach these shores, and that land defences are in consequence unnecessary. He thinks they might reach English coasts, but holds that even if they did get there, having solved the transport problem, the difficulties of disembarking would be insuperable. The opinion of the out-and-out "blue-water" man is more logical than this; and Mr. Balfour's conclusion is again a compromise. We do not place much reliance on the Admiralty estimate, which he quotes, of the tonnage required to carry Lord Roberts' 70,000 men, prepared no doubt with a due regard to cubic space &c., according to best approved red-tape formulæ. Obviously for so short a journey on a supreme occasion men would be packed like sardines in every vacant nook in the ship; whilst it must be remembered that the French, Mr. Balfour's example, could within a very few days easily lay hands on a large amount of shipping which would not actually be lying in their harbours. For instance, arrangements could easily be made within the course of a few days to secure some of the immense Atlantic and other liners belonging to French or German companies. Nor would the enemy, as Mr. Balfour supposes, be likely to embark all his invading forces from one port; and obviously they would not all land on our shores at the same point. Feints would of course be made at other spots. Mr. Balfour takes no account of what the enemy's fleet would do at this stage of the proceedings. So presumably he thinks that all their warships would be away engaging our own fleet somewhere else. But at the least it is likely that they would have some escorting war vessels that could look out for torpedo and other attacks whilst the troops were landing. The invaders would of course expect, and therefore discount, a heavy loss during debarkation. In accepting the 70,000 men theory Mr. Balfour must have lost sight of the attractive possibilities to an enemy in the landing of a much smaller force, possibilities which might well be deemed worth the risks to be run. Even if ultimately unsuccessful, the mere fact of a landing on these shores of a small force would cause almost irreparable damage to our credit and monetary system generally, as Lord Overstone's celebrated letter pointed out over forty years ago. One of the most unsatisfactory features of the whole business is Mr. Balfour's pressing the fatal

doctrine of optimistic assurance. The dictum that in war even more than in other matters it is the uncertain which happens is as true to-day as when it was first said. Mr. Balfour is not fond of the Latin classics, or he might remember Cæsar's saying on this very question. And here we have an instance of the practical value a greater knowledge of Latin might have been to a modern statesman. At any rate he might consider the Austro-Prussian, Franco-German and present Eastern wars. But Mr. Balfour does not face the results of his own conclusions. If invasion is impossible, to keep up Volunteers and Yeomanry at all is a wasteful farce. Their members might with equal, and perhaps superior, advantage occupy their leisure hours with cricket and football, quite as valuable a physical exercise as playing at soldiers; which Volunteering literally becomes if invasion may be dismissed as impossible.

On the creation, or re-creation, of the Defence Committee in its present form Mr. Balfour is fully entitled to take credit to himself. The new plan has the supreme advantage of securing fair consideration, with the help of experts, for the highest defence problems, and of co-ordinating naval and military policy. The composition of the committee is elastic; and, as Mr. Balfour says, only one man need really be permanent—the Prime Minister—since the others can come and go as required. The great weakness is that the Prime Minister may ask the advice of only one set of professional advisers, whose views happen to assist the immediate political situation. In the present case it appears as if Sir John Fisher had imposed his powerful personality on the Prime Minister and the Defence Committee to the exclusion of the military case. In any event the ultimate decision equally rests with the politicians. The composition of the Defence Committee, we think, might with advantage be made still more elastic. When such vitally important matters as Mr. Balfour has dealt with are being considered, the best possible advice should be obtained. The country will lose greatly if the Prime Minister is to form his conclusions without obtaining the views of such men as Lord Wolseley, or Sir Henry Brackenbury and other great authorities who have studied the subject, simply because at the time they do not happen to be holding any official position, or to be temporary members of the committee, like Lord Roberts. Indeed the fact that such eminent men had completed their active naval or military careers would have the additional advantage of ensuring their absolute independence.

#### LABOUR AND TARIFFS.

IF there is an aspect of the tariff question on which argument may be of real avail, it is its relation to organised labour. No one can help seeing that tariff questions have more importance for working people than for any other class, and trade-unionists are more alive to this fact than other working-men because they are on the whole the most intelligent of their class. They are therefore perhaps more worth arguing with than any other element in the population. Mr. Chamberlain is very wise to give them special attention. It is not only a necessary field for him to work, but it is one in which, however hard the soil may appear at present, we believe the tariff reform propaganda has every chance of reaping a large harvest. So far appearances have been very curious in this matter of labour and tariff policy. On principle there is every reason why trade-unionists should be favourably disposed towards any policy protectionist in its nature, while the helpless mass of drifting unorganised labour might, if it reasoned at all, reasonably oppose it. In fact however the labour leaders are nearly all against the policy, and there is no evidence that the main body of trade-union members are in its favour; while a body that poses paradoxically as the organisation of unorganised labour—it calls itself the Free Labour League or something like it—professes unbounded admiration for Mr. Chamberlain's views. Mr. Chamberlain would do his policy a good turn if he could disencumber himself of support of this

kind. There seems to be a terrible tangle somewhere. Historically the great political parties are in a more logical position towards tariff questions. Historically the Liberals are the party of laissez-faire and the Tories of state-intervention and state-protection. So that the Free Trade Conservatives would seem to be the only self-contradictory party. But there is not much in these appearances: they hide a multitude of contradictions. Owing to Radical pressure the Liberals are now more collectivist in most things than the Conservatives, who to a large extent have become the party of capitalist individualism. The explanation of the whole muddle is of course that parties have extremely little to do with principle: they have no continuing political philosophy. Working-class influence, largely on the side of the Liberals owing to the part they played in lowering the franchise, compelled the Liberal party to abandon in labour and social policy its individualist traditions; while the influx into the Conservative party of wealthy Liberals, refugees from Radical violence, has leavened the party with individualist views. On this particular tariff question no doubt the bulk of Conservatives support tariff reform because it was proposed by a prominent Unionist, while the Liberals oppose it for precisely the same reason. We do not suppose one per cent. of voters on either side is influenced in the smallest degree in his attitude to the policy by the historic precedents of his party. His fiscal consistency with those precedents is purely accidental.

Are trade-unionists influenced by economic principle or political philosophy any more than ordinary partisans? Undoubtedly the socialists are, but the vast majority of trade-unionists we should say certainly are not. Therefore we are afraid no very great effect is produced by proving to them that their political philosophy compels them to support a protectionist policy. It is true enough that trade-unionism and laissez-faire cannot be reconciled. Mr. Asquith has tried hard to bring about a rapprochement; but, though we have read or heard everything he has said on the subject, we cannot say he has succeeded in explaining away the incompatibility of temper of these two. Unfortunately, that is not the test by which men try their political views. Therefore this class of argument, while it proves everything, hits no mark. The trade-unionist wants to do two things: he wants artificially to keep up the price of his labour, the thing he has to sell, but by laissez-faire to keep down the price of the things he has to buy. If he can do that, or believes he can do that, it is absolutely idle to tell him he is not consistent in doing it. He will tell you he would rather gain by inconsistency than lose by consistency. He can bear being at fault in his philosophy if he is to the good in his pocket. Most trade-unionists undoubtedly do believe that they can go on indefinitely keeping up the price of their labour by combination and at the same time enjoying the cheapness of every commodity, except what they themselves supply, by means of a system of free imports. They think they score both ways. What we have to do is to prove to them that this cannot go on: that they will have to make their election between the two. Make them believe that and they will certainly prefer trade-unionism with import duties, whether retaliatory or preferential, to free imports and no trade-unions.

We would put this point to trade-unionists. Does not the power of a union vary almost directly with its coincidence with the particular trade? If only a very small proportion of operatives are members of or influenced by the union, is not its power to affect the rate of wages comparatively small? Is not that the reason why they are always trying to link up the different parts of the country for purposes of labour organisation? But trade-unions cannot affect the employers of other countries: therefore the competition of freely imported goods made by unorganised labour abroad must have the same injurious effect on the power of the union here as the work of a remainder of men in the trade in this country outside the influence of the union. What is the good of perpetually labouring to make the organisation of the trade co-extensive with the country, if the fence of combination is allowed to be broken down by unorganised labour abroad? The



trade-unionist does not think of this because the process is indirect. He does not actually see unorganised labour working against him as he does when the goods are being made here. He does not see a strike "broken" by foreign blacklegs; and if his union's rate of wages is kept up, he does not always consider that the rate is possibly also prevented from going up by the foreign labour his union is unable to influence.

What then can take the place of trade-union influence in respect of competing goods made by foreign labour? Surely an import duty is the most likely expedient. No matter whether the foreign maker or the English consumer pays the duty, either way the trade-union object is gained: a price lower than the trade-union rate of wages admits of is made impossible. Neither is the argument impaired if the labour which makes the foreign imported goods is organised labour, unless the foreign rate of wages is as high as or higher than here and there are no other circumstances which give the foreign maker an advantage in underselling the English. But in these circumstances no one would want to put a duty on the imported goods. To do so would be protection of an extreme type which tariff reformers desire as little as free traders.

#### THE CLERGY AND BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

THE clergy of the English Church have a persistent faith in the efficacy of a manifesto. As far back as memory runs each school of thought in turn has issued its protest and gathered its signatures by the hundred or the thousand, and each has had to confess, when the excitement was over, that the result fell short of its expectations. But the succession continues, and in a Church whose national position forbids corporate action in matters of controversy the manifesto must remain. Convocation is powerless, as the small attendance of the representative members of the two Lower Houses shows; if it were an effective force they would not leave its debates to the official clergy. Even the Bishops, when, as in the Colenso case, they are practically unanimous, cannot bind their own order, much less the society over which they collectively preside. They can only state the sense in which, at the moment and by those who are justly accepted as the guides of thought, the authoritative documents of the Church are being interpreted. Such powerlessness is a heavy price to pay, but it is willingly paid for the privilege of representing the nation in its religious aspect.

There remains only the manifesto as a means of influencing public opinion. It is a legitimate desire, and no manifesto issued by a considerable body of clergy within the last two generations has failed to deserve respect and sympathy, even though bystanders may often have smiled and the promoters been disappointed. Nor has any been more successful, at least in attracting attention, than that which has recently been signed by three deans and other clergymen of more or less distinction on behalf of a free and reverent criticism of both Testaments. The matter is one of increasing interest, as the doctrinal issues which it may involve become more clear. It is constantly being discussed in published books and still more in private intercourse, and the charge which has been brought against the authors of the manifesto that they are disturbing the general mind may be summarily dismissed. Everyone knows that the difference exists, and it is quite possible that if the one party had not hastened into the field the other would have anticipated it. There is, at any rate, a widespread impression that a majority of the clergy desire that precise limits should be set to criticism, and would welcome a pronouncement similar to that made in the letter which all English Bishops, with the notable exception of Dr. Thirlwall, addressed to Bishop Colenso in 1863. Most of them, in fact, at least in the country, would approve of its exact repetition. They hold to a literal acceptance of the Old Testament, and condemn any other interpretation of it; but they have no leaders and can hope for no successors in a view which every teacher at the Universities has abandoned. But an attack upon criticism, to be at all effectual, must concentrate itself, and the course of controversy is distracting attention from the Old to the New Testament.

By an unerring instinct friends and foes have fixed upon the true meaning of the recent manifesto. It is a document which needs to be pressed if its significance is to be discovered. Some of those who signed it, it is true, have recoiled with genuine if somewhat grotesque horror; they thought to see their names in print as courageous advocates of a platitude, and are shocked to discover the compromising sense their words may bear. But the able men, some of whom have issued this statement of their demands in the interest, as they think, of all who sympathise with them, have a very definite purpose. It is that of defending Christianity by an entirely new line of argument. They are uncompromising advocates of the Christianity with which we are familiar; they have nothing in common with the Unitarianism which presents the Founder of our religion as nothing more than a great ethical teacher. They would speak of Him as S. Paul speaks, and lay stress on the evidence of history and of the experience of the Saints to His living and superhuman power. In comparison with this, the Gospel narratives which provide the form in which the Incarnation and the Resurrection have been immemorably taught are unimportant. The doctrines themselves are essentials, psychologically verified; the statements of historical fact need to be subjected to the same scrutiny by historical and forensic methods as any other assertions concerning events which have happened in time. And it is asserted, after an examination conducted for the most part in Germany, that they break down under the test. The conclusion must inevitably shock a multitude of devout souls, which have held that the two lines of evidence, that of the Gospel narrative and that of spiritual attestation, corroborate one another, and have allowed the two to become so interwoven in their thoughts that they seem to stand or fall together. It is difficult for them to draw a logical distinction in the domain of strong religious feeling. Such persons are the normal Christians of England, within and without the National Church, and it is evident from numerous letters among those addressed to the "Standard" that not only are their own convictions unshaken, but that often they cannot explain the historical doubts of others by any motives worthy of respect. The letters selected for publication as representative of current opinion have been chosen after an American rather than an English standard of taste. There is an evident preference for crude and violent effusions; insolence and ignorance and that suspiciousness which is the besetting intellectual vice of the half-educated have been allowed to parade themselves at will. But when all allowance has been made for such excesses, and for the utterances of mere timidity and thoughtlessness, the ultimate impression is that of the gravity of the wound inflicted. Our people are not prepared to face even the possibility of error in the facts, still less to accept the psychological evidence as a ground of assurance. So little do they comprehend it that it seems to them dishonesty to allege it. The correspondence, it is true, contains statements of religious "liberalism", sometimes thoughtfully and reverently, sometimes blatantly expressed. But louder than these is the cry of the irritated and alarmed, demanding that something should be said or done in reprobation of these novel suggestions.

It is a grave question whether the leaders of the Church would be wise in complying with the demands. Free discussion is no new thing; there is, in fact, an unconscious humour in divines such as Dr. Rashdall asking for a privilege which they are daily using. And liberty has been exercised in so many directions that it is difficult as a matter either of logic or of charity to limit it in one. Nor have previous attempts been successful; the Colenso case, the nearest analogy, imperfect though it is, might be used with excellent rhetorical effect by the advocates of freedom. And deeply as this debate cuts, not (so we are assured) into the substance but into some of the grounds of the Christian faith, we must remember that there is another ecclesiastical controversy on which the public attention is fixed. So it was forty years ago; Lord Shaftesbury and Dr. Pusey entered into alliance to oppose innovation, and for the only time in their careers they found themselves unheeded. The ritual issue is before the public, now as

then, and the general mind cannot follow two controversies at once. If there must be a victim, we have little doubt that far more voices would be raised for the sacrifice of the ritualist than of the liberal. Both parties are in need of tolerance, and neither can deserve it unless it keeps its more unruly members in order. The irritation in both cases is caused in the main by unimportant persons; cheap translations from the German and cheap trips to Belgium stimulate to unwisdom. Some grave severity of general disapproval is necessary if we are to be saved from the scandal of seeing so-called privileges of unfamiliar worship and liberties of irresponsible thought forced upon congregations or poured into unwilling ears. But in the present organisation, or disorganisation, of English society such reproof will be effectual exactly in proportion as it is unofficial. An episcopal utterance, which might well have its dissenting Thirlwalls, must be too general in its terms to discriminate; and an attempt to inquire privately into the tenets of the clergy would have no more success to-day than it had with Dr. Marsh. That eminent Bishop of Peterborough, the leading Biblical scholar of his day, endeavoured less than ninety years ago to detect Evangelicals by means of ingenious doctrinal questions and to exclude them from his diocese. This was on the very eve of Evangelical dominance. "Except these abide in the ship ye cannot be saved" was the warning given a few years ago by Archbishop Benson in regard to the same party, who seemed to be sinking, ostracised and contemned, into sullen discontent. There is no fear to-day lest their strength should be undervalued; and it would be a disaster, moral and practical, if other tendencies of thought, not less rich if duly guided in possibilities of service, should be chilled by the assertion that those who cherish them are not true sons of their national Church.

#### A SOLUTION OF THE SCOTTISH LAND QUESTION.

IN our issue of 25 March we gave an account of a grave land question that has arisen in Scotland. The facts are simple. Leases of hill-farms provide that at the close of tenancies the stocks of sheep shall remain. They are to be taken over by the incoming tenants, or by the landlords, at prices to be fixed by valuation. These prices are invariably set at sums much in excess of the actual values, and the outgoing tenants are habitually awarded bonuses which may amount to anything between 12s. and 25s. for every sheep in the flocks. On a stock of three or four thousand head this comes to an alarming total. Some of the results were set forth in the article to which we have referred. They are too serious to be borne longer. They are not compatible with the prosperity of the farmer class or with the solvency of the landowners. That has already been made clear; but the remedy is still to be found. It has been asked, Could not the Courts of law arrange that the system of valuation should be administered justly? Evidently they could not. By their own acts the parties to the leases have submitted themselves to the judgment of arbiters. The Courts could cancel the award if corruption on the part of one or both of the arbiters or of the oversman could be established; or on proof that the arbiters had gone beyond the scope of the reference. It would be impossible, however, to establish either of those contentions. As a rule the valuers are leading men in their profession of sheep-farming. It is to their interest, prospectively, they being themselves tenants, that the inflation of prices should be maintained and increased; but the Courts, it is believed, could not be convinced that this constitutes a conspiracy. To show that the scope of the reference had been exceeded would be a task more hopeless still. By the terms of the leases, from which the minutes of reference are drawn, the arbiters are not called upon to deal with the elements of value separately and specifically. They are entitled to take latent values into consideration. Thus, their mere word in the witness-box that their decreets-arbital covered all the

elements of value, and nothing more, would defeat any attempt to show that they had gone beyond their duty.

In common with all others concerned, the arbiters know that their proceedings are essentially unsound. Every successive "valuation" puts a fresh debt upon the land. This, of course, is quietly done, as soothingly as possible, with sympathetic assurance that the bonus system, which is never frankly called so, has reached its ultimate expansion; but the motive of this sympathy has only to be noted in order to realise that the assurance is valueless. Being tenant-farmers, the arbiters have to think of the time when they themselves shall be outgoing. Why, it may be asked, are they always tenant-farmers? Why do not the landlords see that their own interests, which incidentally are the public interest of sound finance, have fair representation? Again the explanation is simple. The landowner may appoint another landowner, or a land-agent, to act in his behalf; but that is no guarantee of justice. Lest difference of estimate should arise, the two arbiters have to appoint an oversman. Who is he to be? In this question the landowner has no effective say. He, through his arbiter, may suggest for the office of oversman some one in whom he would have confidence; but the other arbiter has only to object to the suggestion, without reason stated, and it falls to the ground. The landowner who carries the matter to a Court of law is unwise. The Court can only appoint some one who has had experience in valuation; that is a tenant-farmer; and he upholds and promotes the system of inflation, and does so, to all appearance, with direct authority from the Court.

It would seem that there is only one way out of the difficulty. As leases fall in landowners must take over the stocks on the best terms that can be made under the current pacts, reissue the stocks at actual value, and contract that the incoming tenants shall in their turn hand the stocks over at actual value. To make this arrangement effectual and a guarantee for permanent right dealing, a short Act of Parliament and a financial operation will be necessary. The current custom in valuations being an extravagant abuse, Parliament should declare that the arbitration clauses are to be interpreted as meaning that the stocks are to be valued at market rates, and that the additional sum in respect of acclimatisation shall not exceed, say, 10 per cent., which any commission of landlords and tenants would probably suggest. Tenants who on entering paid bonuses on the stocks would, of course, have to be reimbursed; but the arrangement would put an end to a usage which if allowed to continue will produce evils for many classes besides the landowners. It is not desirable that the whole of the hill regions in Scotland and the North of England should be laid out as grouse-moors or deer-forests exclusively. This solution of the problem would involve no injustice to farmers at present in tenancies, and, by limiting the capital necessary, it would make farming easier and less wasteful for men of moderate means. The landlords would suffer under it; but they will suffer much less, if reform is taken in hand now, than they will if it is postponed. In cases where they have already sanctioned the bonus system by submitting to the "custom" they will have to meet the differences between the fictitious values and the actual values. A few of them, such as have sources of income other than their lands, can do that without irremediable inconvenience. To the majority it will be difficult. In many cases portions of the estates would have to be sold to meet differences, if the debts with which the landlords have been so cunningly encumbered had to be paid off immediately. A grant from the Exchequer, to be liquidated in instalments with the flocks as security for advance and interest, would not be unreasonable; but unless Parliament perceived in the proposal an insurance against the spread of deer-forests, it would be out of the question at present. An alternative suggests itself. There is abundant capital for investment as secure as that which would be found in the permanent flocks on the hills. A financial corporation formed for the purpose we have indicated would do sound business during the period necessary to redeem the Highlands from the burdens with which they have been so unjustly embarrassed.



## THE CITY.

THERE has been a distinct improvement in the general monetary conditions during the past week and the Bank of England return of Thursday showed an addition to the total reserve of nearly £650,000, whilst the figures also bore evidence that the market had considerably reduced its indebtedness. It is unlikely that any immediate reduction in the official rate will be effected, but there has been a very fair amount of investment in short-dated bonds, which vary in price almost automatically with the money rate, by discount houses and other institutions who may be considered competent judges of the outlook. If the anticipation of cheaper money is borne out it is a corollary that—barring any untoward political disturbance which is always possible whilst the war continues—investment stocks generally will improve, and we are of opinion that any funds awaiting investment should be employed now rather than held over in the hope of lower prices. Although it cannot be said that the volume of business on the Stock Exchange has been much greater during the past week there has been a better tone, and, as noted above, a certain amount of buying in the gilt-edged stocks. Stories of peace negotiations were in the air on Tuesday and as it happened that Paris chose to buy South African mining shares on that day for no very apparent reason, the buying was considered to arise from the rumours to which we have referred. The flicker of life was not very strong, however, and it is evident that “political markets”—connoting nervousness, vague hopes and apprehensions—are still with us, and we fear likely to remain until some decisive action takes place between the two fleets. Russian and Japanese stocks are both better, partly owing to the peace rumours and also to the closing of “bear” commitments. Russians are notoriously a dangerous stock for the “bears”, and the sharp rise which would take place should there be any truth in the peace rumours makes the “bears” extremely cautious.

The two issues of importance which have been before the public during the past week have been successful, and although both stand at a small premium they may safely be recommended to the investor. The first was an issue of £350,000  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. redeemable debentures at par by William Gray and Co. the well-known shipbuilders, whose balance-sheets exhibit the fluctuations which one associates with the ship-building trade, ranging from £68,000 in 1896 to £143,000 in 1901. The annual amount of interest on the present debentures is only £15,750 and the assets charged under the debenture deed represent value for £1,120,000: altogether an attractive industrial investment. The second issue relates to £120,000 4 per cent. stock of the municipality of Wynberg, Cape Colony, a suburb of Capetown, at the price of 96 per cent. and redeemable in thirty years' time. The loan is required to pay off an existing indebtedness of £61,000 which is running at a higher rate of interest, and the balance is to provide for road construction, drainage and waterworks. The rateable value of the town last year was £2,373,870 and the revenue is about £30,000. We have been informed that there is a possibility of a scheme for the consolidation of the various suburban loans of Capetown and district being considered by the various municipal bodies, and were a central loan created the result would be much to the general advantage as many investors would doubtless invest in a loan of this character who might be unwilling to lend to an outside municipality with an unfamiliar name—the straggling nature of the Capetown suburban districts, each a small town in itself, can only be realised by those who know the Cape.

We are now entering the period when the most contradictory reports may be expected as to Canadian and American crop prospects. Already and almost before the official statement as to the condition of winter wheat in the United States has become generally known, the statement has been made that heavy rains have worked enormous harm—probably the whole thing will be contradicted next week. The real fact is that the area under cultivation is so vast that it is quite possible for several sections to be disappointing and

yet the general result may be well above the average. There is nothing beyond the statements made by interested parties, presumably “bears”, to lead one to suppose that there has been any serious diminution of the official figures relating to the average condition of the crops and it is our opinion that investors in the stocks of the Union Pacific and South Pacific railroads, of whom there are many in this country will see a very substantial appreciation in the value of their property this year. In regard to the Canadian lines we look for improvement in Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks as both lines are doing well; the latter showed an increase this week against the market anticipation of a decrease and the traffics will benefit—apart from the general prosperity of the country—from the conveyance of material for the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific line. Mining and industrial companies being so largely out of fashion with the public the promoter is taking every advantage of the blessed word “Egypt”, and copious extracts from Lord Cromer's recent report on Egyptian affairs embellish the prospectuses of the numerous land and finance companies which are springing up in every direction. We are among the most ardent believers in the great future awaiting Egypt, but we are perfectly convinced that the speculation in land is being overdone, and the mere parade of several titled personages on a prospectus, together with a few gentlemen styled “Excellency” or “Bey” does not compensate for somewhat hazy references in general terms as to the policy of the companies which are to be established and the estimates of profits to be derived from their operations. The public will require to be extremely circumspect before venturing into the many Egyptian land companies which are being promoted, and the contracts as to sales and re-sales should be scrutinised with care.

There is little of interest to note in connection with the South African mining market. The plain fact is that the public are not inclined to add to their holding, already very large, and nothing but sheer hard work on the part of the producing companies in the direction of reducing costs will have any effect. Our information is that the commercial situation is showing gradual improvement and the output is undoubtedly increasing, but as far as the public is concerned speculation is dead, and we see no immediate probability of any awakening of interest.

## THE “STANDARD” ON LIFE ASSURANCE.

ONCE again it seems necessary to refer to the views of the “Standard” on Life Assurance. The principal contention of the writer seems to be “that very many millions of surplus reserves have been accumulated, and are being accumulated, from lapsed and surrendered policies.” This statement is entirely contrary to facts. The “Standard”, also, objects to Life offices being very profitable for shareholders, but there are a great many mutual offices to which most of his objections would apply just as much as to proprietary companies. Bearing these two points in mind we may consider the paragraphs of the letter in numerical order.

1. The original article distinctly grumbled at the entire funds of Life offices being invested at so low a rate of interest as  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 per cent. This objection now vanishes, and it is only the investment of superfluous reserves accumulated from lapsed and surrendered policies the re-creative energy of which is “stultified”. The idea seems to be that if the Life offices paid the surplus reserves to their policy-holders the money now invested in mortgages, Government securities, shares, debentures, and so on, would no longer be invested in such securities, but would yield a higher rate of interest, and that the community would thereby gain. The refutation of the argument is contained in its statement.

2. The point raised under this head before was that if large reserves were needed by a company with policies that had been long in force, equally large reserves were required by a new company. This was completely answered by stating that the reserve

necessary to meet the liability under a policy increases with the duration of the policy. The "gigantic surplus reserves" from surrenders being a fiction of the "Standard's" imagination, are not required by either old or new companies and do not exist.

3. Since the "Standard" has had ample experience of actuaries assuming that *every*, as distinct from *any*, assurer may die immediately, evidence of this assumption can easily be produced; until it is it is only fair to attribute sanity to actuaries.

4. Since we have stated that many insurance companies are very profitable to the shareholders, and that some shareholders take too much from the policyholders, there seems little to say upon this point. When, as is often the case, a proprietary company gives its policy-holders as good results as a mutual office there seems no objection to the shareholders making a large profit.

5. In face of the suggestion that expense ratios should be calculated on claims a feeling of despair comes over one. An old company that had ceased to do new business and was only paying claims as they matured, while working almost without any expense at all, would appear hopelessly extravagant. A company obtaining a large amount of new business and incurring very heavy expenses in doing so, would appear to be managed with extreme economy. Claims and expenses have nothing whatever to do with one another and cannot be compared with any reason.

6. This paragraph refers to the point which seems to underlie all the contentions of the "Standard". It asserts that huge profits are made out of lapses and surrenders, which have accumulated to very many millions of unnecessary surplus. Since a good many people think that life offices as a whole make large profits out of surrenders and lapses, the point is well worth explaining again and we propose to deal with it next week; the space available is insufficient to do so now. It must suffice to repeat that lapses and surrenders are not, to any appreciable extent, a source of profit; they frequently involve a loss to the companies, and practically no part of the accumulated funds has been derived from this source.

7. 8. The "Standard" writer seemed to think he had made a discovery in saying that the rate of lapse and surrender ought to be considered. On being told that it was considered and had been tabulated, he wanted to know where, and we referred him to the "Journal of the Institute of Actuaries". The Journal can be purchased by anybody who wishes to buy it and elaborate technical statistics are usually only to be found in publications which do not appeal to the public. We gave brief statistics on this point about one company, and our columns are a quite unsuitable place in which to reproduce elaborate tables.

9. The error which all the Life offices are making, according to the "Standard", is in being too secure. Beyond asserting that the companies have accumulated large reserves from surrenders and lapses the "Standard" does not indicate what ancient theorems have been shattered by practice, nor point out what parts of the foundations demand readjustment. Until something more serious than the making of fictitious profits out of lapses is proved against Life assurance we shall continue to believe in it.

#### THE SPELL OF LONDON.

A MAN who has lived in London for some years will find no question more constantly haunting him than this: What is the secret of London's fascination? An endless number of answers could be given; and each man would have his own specification of the elements in London life which specially attract him, and make the contemplation of living elsewhere take the character of a punishment and an exile. He might speak of business or pleasure, and remark that London is the headquarters of both; that everything flows to London and is represented there on its grandest scale. In whatever he is interested he finds that what it is in London that it is for the three kingdoms and for the rest of the world. Mr.

Hueffer\* not without considerable success has given us a series of impressionist pictures of many characteristics of London which more or less distinctly force themselves into our consciousness from residence in it. They may be described as an effort to represent what everybody feels. London gives us in the highest possible degree the sense of human contacts. These contacts become so bewildering from their complexity that the mind fails to grasp the details of them just as it fails to grasp London in its merely physical magnitude. We dwell in London with a hazy impression of both; and what stands out is the presence of apparently amorphous masses, indistinct, grey and gloomy in which everything is enwrapped as is the city itself in its winter fogs. The incomparable size of London in itself produces this feeling. Not that it need be so large for its mystery and terror and romance to captivate the imagination, or for abnormal and curious specimens of humanity to interest the observer and the describer of human character. Paris impressed Balzac and Hugo and Zola as London has impressed our own writers. Perhaps when one is in the midst of a city whose inhabitants can be counted by the million there is sufficient material to stimulate the emotions and to baffle the intelligence. As in astronomical distances or geological time we are rendered helpless by the half of any given sum, so in trying to comprehend London we have to cease our efforts long before the extra two or three millions are added by which she surpasses any other city of the ancient or modern world.

And yet this excess tells in London because in great part it is made up of masses of the poor who only appear, as it were, on a far-distant horizon, but whose presence is felt to be peculiarly insistent and ominous. There is an analogy between the actual space distances which separate the quarters of the city, and the mental and moral intervals by which the prosperous and the poor of the community are rendered either apathetic or repugnant to one another. But this aloofness is only a phase of what is always noted by observers as a characteristic of London in general. Whatever other conclusions an inhabitant of London draws from his experience one will certainly be that isolation and solitude are as essential elements as the noise and turmoil of its multitudes. To many minds no aspect of London is more fascinating than this. It is congenial to the reflective man to enjoy the contemplation of his own insignificance at moments; and he finds an occasion for it in the vastness of London as he does in the vastness of the sky, or mountains, or the sea. But he also revolts against it after a time, and he will escape from London as he does from Nature in order to rehabilitate his own individuality to himself. One is so impatient to get away from London and so impatient to return to it! Very obviously there is something non-moral if not immoral in the sense of infinite littleness and irresponsibility which being one of such a vast collection of human beings imposes upon us. In London we seem part of a huge movement in which all personal direction and control seem at their lowest possible dimensions. That produces an attitude of carelessness, of indifference, of fatalism, reduces enthusiasms, makes one scornful of ideals and co-operation with others to attain them, and drives us in on ourselves and our own individual interests in which we find something that we can feel we understand and over which we can effectively assert our personal influence. And so the Londoner in, as it were, an endless maze without a plan becomes notably wanting in public spirit, and feels that he has no city as a Greek would understand it or as even many provincial Englishmen. Nor does public opinion press so directly on the life of the individual in London as it does in smaller communities. As all forms of religious and benevolent activities are reduced to comparative insignificance amidst the complexity of general affairs, so also many opportunities of doing the unpermitted are embraced without incurring inconvenient publicity. The result is that there are so many breaches of the conventional code, hidden in the secret recesses of London life but

\* "The Soul of London." By Ford Madox Hueffer. London: Rivers. 1905.



taken for granted as existing, that a tolerance is extended to them which is impossible elsewhere. A man gets the benefit of the doubt who would quickly be pilloried in places where his actions stand out patently without the obscurity which London casts around them. This is not an atmosphere most congenial to morality, but it is admirable for the amenities of life in many matters below the morality grade.

Provincials who settle in London delight in the freedom they enjoy from the paltry gossip, the prying curiosity and censoriousness of neighbours. They find they have no neighbours but only "the people next door" whom they probably do not know nor want to know; and the feeling is reciprocal. There is something perhaps a little unpleasant in this indifference to what befalls those beside whom we are living; and at times an incident emphasises the callousness of it. A wedding party returning from church came face to face with the bearers of the coffin of a person who had died next door, funeral and wedding being unheard of by each of the neighbours. And yet so great is the continuous fascination of London that one may wish to return to it to die. Falstaff dying in London babbled of green fields, and it seems natural that one should wish to escape from the huge indifference of London where men drop apart from their fellows as unnoticed as a dying sheep in a flock. We believe that is the usual feeling, and that most people who have passed their lives in London look with aversion at the prospect of dying there. Whatever pleasure absorption in the undistinguishable crowd of London may give us during life we shrink from dying as unnoticed as the leaves drop from the trees; and one can never think of the London cemetery without being appalled at the effacement worked by death of our claims to individual remembrance and distinction. Yet, as Mr. Hueffer says, there are men whose last thoughts have dwelt longingly on some of the most sordid of London's phases.

And it is remarkable that even for those to whom London apparently offers nothing but its hard toil and poverty it has none the less of fascination than for those to whose ambitions and pleasures it ministers magnificently. The constant flow to London of the poorer classes from the country is inexplicable so long as we draw idyllic pictures of the bucolic life. They do not exist in the mind of the countryman, and it is London that stimulates his imagination. Once he is there he feels its spell as powerfully as the bred and born townsman, and he will not give up his increased contacts with his fellows and the animation of his new surroundings, however you may try to persuade him that he has lost by his exchange. He has got the Londoner's feeling that there is no place like London to live in. Hard experience may have taught him that economically he may be worse off than in the country. His surroundings are probably squalid, and one may wonder where he finds his compensations for the country. We mean of course the country of our dreams, but the countryman's experience of it has been something quite different. There are all his disagreeables and London reverses the whole of them. For dulness it gives light and animation, for monotonous solitude ever-moving crowds whose diversities are infinite and arouse an inexhaustible curiosity. Let us once appreciate the country as a working place, not as a playground, and its inconveniences for those who are not wealthy, and we shall understand quite easily what the lights, the well-paved streets, the railway and the tramway mean to the rustic. London makes him feel as a modern with all the modern's material advantages. Nor must we omit that London by its variety of classes and pursuits makes social distinctions less noticeable; and the countryman enjoys this illusory satisfaction not less than many wealthier people who share London with him. It is a paradox, but true, that while London reduces individuality it also cherishes it and contributes to our sense of self-importance. This is in accordance with the many curious examples given by Mr. Hueffer of eccentric characters produced as it seems by reaction from the general tendency of London life to efface the feeling of personal distinction.

## EXHIBITIONS.

I HAVE given my space to the discussion of urgent general questions, and do not propose to examine the Academy and New Gallery pictures in detail; the familiar painters are in no danger of neglect, and there is nothing new that calls for notice. But one or two pictures stick in the mind and should have their tribute. Mr. Orchardson, one of the few fine artists left in the Academy, shows a portrait that looks extraordinarily well and lonely among effigies with skin of pink kid and electric eyes, or draperies of glaring tin and flesh of sand. It is like a breath of the west wind between the east wind and the scirocco. Mr. Clausen is at his very best in his two landscapes. The "Morning in June" accepts certain chilly greens and blues of the smoke-touched sunshine that would discourage most of us, and there has been some difficulty in modelling the clouds, so that the paint is deadened, but he has carried off his picture, a picture of his own, balancing those cold hues by a mass of warm colour in their own key, the beautifully modulated heap of straw to the right.\* Mr. Sargent has nothing equal to the Mrs. Wertheimer of last year, but his Marlborough group is a remarkable essay in a field where even Reynolds did not altogether succeed. The silhouette of the Duke is the finest part. Children are such unseizable objects for a painter that the successes in their portraiture are few; a Velazquez a Rembrandt or a Gainsborough occasionally captures them. They are worse for painting than pretty women; yet, like pretty women, so adorable that the more beautiful subjects, old women and men with lined and ravaged faces, are neglected in the chase of them. The "Swettenham" at the New Gallery is another essay in grandiose portraiture, very ingeniously piled up to the great globe at the top, and the figure well posed and painted. The scheme, however, of composing a mass of starchy white surrounded by warm colour is against the experience of Reynolds, and perhaps the possibilities of harmony. The "Garcia" is a fine portrait and monument. Furse's cavalcade is a notable invention in design; his sense of plastic was so vigorous and of colour so negative that it is a pity he was not a sculptor. Mr. Swan's tigress at the Old Water Colour Society is one of the best things of the kind he has done. In the same exhibition there is a design by Mr. Walter Bayes, which interested me less in its actual working out, for which the medium is not best suited, than for its general conception. Mr. Bayes threw out, in an essay on decorative painting, an idea for the treatment of public libraries and municipal buildings. The subject was to be contemporary history, the chief features of the place, as it is, contrived into a panel, with its chief characters as they are, the humours of them not excluded. This triptych (79) of Sunday in a French Village, managed into a little panorama with visitors and local characters, down to the pig, introduced, looks like an illustration of the idea. Some public library, when it is completely furnished with apocryphal busts of the local dead, might do worse than call in Mr. Bayes to depict the living. Battersea Park, with Mr. Burns at the wicket, might be suggested for the first, and Hammersmith, with Sir William Richmond suppressing a smoke nuisance, for the second.

The Grafton Gallery is filled with a "selection" from Mr. Staats Forbes' famous accumulations. It becomes more and more evident that Mr. Forbes, though he secured a quantity of fine things, bought very indiscriminately, and did not weed his collection. Some of the best things have probably already been disposed of, certain of the Millet drawings for example, though there are several good ones here, such as the "Woodcutters", and the fine early picture "Amour Vainqueur". There are two splendid Rousseaus, the "St. Cloud"

\* I notice that the careful and learned critic of the "Daily Telegraph" speaks of Mr. Clausen as a follower of Monet in the practice of applying pigment "pure" in patches, with a view to optical mixture. Mr. Clausen, like Monet, mixes his pigment, and only occasionally breaks it by hatching. A writer in the "Nineteenth Century" recently questioned my assertion about Monet, apparently because Monet had introduced some variety of tint into the painting of a bank of grass, and made the shadows of the tufts a different colour from the lights.

and a forest sunset (349). The best Corot is a little figure study (361), lovely in colour, though there are some interesting minor landscapes. There is an excellent Boudin (277), silver grey with flecks of bright colour, and near it a work by that terrible painter Ziem, who is included in such collections by those who have the superstition of a "period". Fairly good examples of Courbet, Daumier, Diaz, Daubigny and the Dutch painters are to be found, and there is a good Lhermitte near the entrance. But the mass of the work is second-rate, and gives the impression of bargains picked up. Worst of all for the collector's reputation is the English section, where hardly one of the "Constables" looks genuine. No. 311 is a charming study, probably touched by some other hand. The works by "Old Chrome" (sic) are few of them old enough. No. 296 looks genuine, but is not of the first rank. Better examples of these two painters were to be seen in the Huth collection at Christie's this week, one exquisite little Crome (46, "View on the Yare") and a sketch for the South Kensington "Salisbury" by Constable superior to the picture; also, by the way, a masterpiece of painting by that under-rated artist James Ward ("The Two Calves"). To return to the Forbes pictures, there is a fine landscape attributed to "Bonington" which looks more like a composition by Cotman (301), and an interesting picture ascribed to Richard Wilson (321) of rather puzzling authorship. It is impossible here to sift the whole collection, and it is a great pity the sifting was not done before exhibition.

At the Carfax Gallery is an exhibition, chiefly of water-colours, by Mr. Henry Tonks, which may be overlooked at this crowded season. Mr. Tonks is one of the few real teachers of drawing we have had in England, and the drudgery of teaching has been repaid by what several more than brilliant pupils have made of this training. His own early training as a surgeon gave him a scientific grounding in anatomical structure; his temper as a draughtsman ranks him under that greatest master of modern times, Ingres. He sees a form first in its main enveloping curves, and then refines upon these in the inflections that press it more closely. Draughtsmen approach form according to their temper, by way of the square or the ellipse; his bias is for soft and elegant curvature. In the oil-paintings we may trace a difficulty in rendering those inner modulations of form so completely as with the point, especially when the subject is all of grace and prettiness. But "Ways and Means", with its hint of drama, gives a less slippery surface to attack, and one would like to see Mr. Tonks develop this line. A portrait-group, now at Liverpool, gives a still higher idea of his powers as a painter. The watercolours are very definite drawings, in firm line and wash, and are at least one admirable kind of a much-abused art. The colour aims at an abstract of warm and cold, light and shade, as the line aims at an abstract of form, and the distance of this abstract from minute detail of colour or form is well preserved, with an effort of style, and a success in carrying away in a rapid sketch some charm of grouping in figures or effect in landscape. The studies of a boy on a pony, of "Vagrants", the children and old women in mixed sunlight and smoke round the gipsy pot (19), the trees and cumulus cloud (46), the "Musician" (37), the "Blackberry Gatherers" (53), and a dozen others are brilliant and delightful drawings.

Messrs. Agnews' gallery is filled with a collection of jewelry by M. Lalique. He has a very delicate sense of colour, an ingenious use of materials to give it play, skill in modelling, exquisite craftsmanship, and fancy to recommend his work. But there are few of the objects that are satisfying in form, for the lines are usually those of "L'Art Nouveau", flaccid, non-structural curves, and motives of the wrong scale. One or two examples are better than the rest in this respect, but they are not numbered separately, so it is difficult to indicate them.

Those who ever look at miniature exhibitions have probably given up hoping to find anything tolerable in an art that has come to exhibit all the vices possible to watercolour and photography conjoined. I have just space here to draw attention to some examples of

true miniature-painting by an artist whose name is new to me, Mr. John Pringle. They are to be found in a most unpromising exhibition in the Doré Gallery among works of the Glasgow Art Club. The rest is Glasgow painting run to seed. D. S. MACCOLL.

#### JOACHIM AND OTHERS.

AFTER all it must be admitted that England is a very great country. Just at the moment when Joachim is delighting all of our longest ears Mr. J. A. F. Maitland comes forth with a book\* not only putting Joachim amongst the highest gods of music, but even placing him a little higher than the highest. To the long-eared it is nothing that Joachim continually plays out of tune; his seventy-four years count for nothing against his everlasting juvenility. I had read through Mr. Maitland's admirable panegyric when the tickets for one of Mr. Joachim's quartet concerts were put into my hands and the prayer came instinctively, irresistibly, to my lips "Save us from our friends!" I should indeed be in sorry case if I had to rely on such friends as Mr. Maitland. Here we are told that Joachim's tone is perfect, his intonation perfect, his interpretations of all great works beyond compare—and what will you? Such a fiddler never walked this earth, never played in this mean city of London. Only in this country can such things be written. Mr. Maitland's book is not worth going into in any detail. If this gentleman does not like what I have already said about his writings on music I can only add a few words by way of apology. It has deeply grieved me to speak about his previous writings as I have done; but is it necessary that he should write at all? Who ordered him to set forth a law of which he knoweth nothing to a benighted British nation? What inspired prophet came down from some fiery mountain saying, "Arise, J. A. F. Maitland, and carry forth these tablets—each one a copy of the 'Times': value 3 pence—and teach the heathen of England that the laws of Kensington Gore, and of Kensington Gore alone, must be obeyed under pain of the displeasure of Kensington Gore"? Probably Mr. Maitland would find it a little difficult to answer these questions; and while he is searching for an answer I would advise him—very seriously—to give up writing altogether. He is only a sort of gad-fly, but he keeps bothering our ears, and he ought to be made to dry himself up in eternal silence.

This is only to wander from the case. Mr. Maitland's book really does not matter. But it does matter that on Wednesday night I heard a great violinist—once the greatest of all violinists—scraping and scratching over the strings as any child might do. Of course he hit notes that no child could hit, he did tricks of technique far beyond any child, his conception of the things he played was no child's conception; but so far as the quality of tone and pitch was concerned a child might have been fiddling. It is idle to talk about the man's intellectual and artistic greatness: we can only judge by the result; and the result of all Joachim's present efforts is nothing more, to speak frankly, than a very disagreeable noise. His fellows in the quartet play in tune: it is Joachim and Joachim only who plays out of tune; his fellows in the quartet fetch out a rich and noble tune: it is Joachim and Joachim only who scrapes and scratches until one begins to curse heaven for the blessed gift of hearing. I know perfectly well that this is strong language. Were Joachim a lesser man I should not employ it—possibly I might not notice his performances at all. But Joachim!—the mighty artist we used to revere, the man who cared nothing for popularity and would have scorned to play to the gallery, the champion of a losing cause and the firm-set opponent of a winning one—that Joachim should in his old age continue to fiddle out of tune and take the applause of the crowd for the approval of the élite: this is a pathetic sight. What will our children think of us? They are taken to hear him; their baby

\* "Joseph Joachim." By J. A. Fuller Maitland. London: Lane. 1905. 2s. 6d. net.



ears know perfectly well that scratching is not beautiful violin-playing and that to be off the note is not to be on it; and yet they are asked to think that this is the greatest living violinist. It is easy to foresee what will happen. In ten years there will arise a crop of musical young men and women who will scoff at the name of Joachim; and if I and my colleagues of to-day venture to say that in our youth we heard Joachim play in the grandest manner and perfectly in tune they will smile and say "Yes, yes" and think we are a pack of dotards. They will have heard Joachim play as he does to-day; they will have heard him praised as he was and deserved to be praised when he was in his prime; and they will believe that the praise he received in his prime was of no more value than the praise he got in his old age. For the spirit in which this serious artist—once a great and splendid artist—attacked the Mozart quintet the other night no words in the way of praise could suffice; but then, what is the use of a fine spirit if the tone is so bad that the work becomes intolerable? It is a truism, but one which is brought home to us with terrific force when we hear Joachim play, that in art it is not intentions that count but the accomplished thing. In the case of Joachim there is the evident intention, a noble intention; but there is also the accomplished thing, a thing that hurts the ears and shocks one's nerves. After Wednesday evening's experience I think I shall never go again to hear Joachim. It is far preferable to think of the incomparable violinist of former years, the really great musician, the soul like a lambent flame not yet blown out. To-day, what is there but a fiddler who is off the note, whose tone offends the senses, whose soul tries to get at ours as a wintry British sun tries to pierce grey clouds.

Some time ago, when my eyes "to gain some private ends" definitely refused to render me the service for which they were presumably intended, I promised my readers that as soon as possible I would attend and notice a fabulous number of concerts. To keep my word this week I have "done" nine, but it is not necessary to speak of them all. The merciful man is merciful to his beast, and just at this moment I wish to come down heavily on no one. So I shall not refer to several ladies and gentlemen who ought not to have appeared at all in a London concert hall. On the other hand I was delighted to hear our old friend Miss Agnes Zimmermann. To myself, no chicken, it seems an age since I first heard her play the piano in that beautiful, calm, sane way which somehow never becomes prosaic. To-day her playing is exactly what it was more than twenty years ago. First of all there is brain in it; then comes a sense of the value of beautiful tone; and behind all there is an appreciation of the emotion of the music she is playing—a curious sort of æsthetic appreciation of its worth rather than any profound sympathetic vibration with the emotion itself. The result is always a noble, restrained interpretation—not one that makes you want to jump up on the seats and shout, but one that leaves a feeling of profound satisfaction. Mr. von Zur-Muhlen, who sang at Miss Zimmermann's concert, is neither here nor there. There are many vocalists who can sing out as lustily as he does and there are a great many who do it worse.

Mr. Hubermann is a violinist. Many other people are violinists. But Mr. Hubermann is a really fine one. He played the other day a concerto by Goldmark which really astonished me. As a rule Goldmark's compositions are marked by a singularly common sort of imagination, but in this concerto he reaches something which certainly approaches if it does not actually touch the grand style. How much of the effect was owing to Mr. Hubermann and how much to Goldmark I cannot say until at least a second hearing; but in the meantime I must admit that the thing most favourably impressed me. Mr. Hubermann intends to give another recital this season and I regret to see that he asks his audience to choose their own programme. It does not matter, because no one is compelled to attend a concert by Mr. Hubermann or any other player; but the artist who does this kind of thing ought seriously to consider his own case. Audiences usually choose idiotic programmes and artists should remember that to announce that their

audiences like idiotic programmes is not precisely to flatter themselves.

It is to be observed that the usual crop of child-prodigies, infant-phenomena, has come up this spring. With these I resolutely refuse to deal. I am intensely fond of both children and cats but their musical performances shall never be noticed in these columns. The cats are well able to look after themselves; but the children are not. A solitary concert may sometimes bring forward the wealthy patron who will pay for the child's education, but my belief is that nowadays wealthy patrons can be easily enough found without recourse to such means.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

#### ENGLAND AGAINST AUSTRALIA.

ONCE again we have the presence of an Australian eleven to enliven the somewhat dreary iteration of the average county season. Not that there are many new faces amongst our visitors. With the exception of three or four, amongst whom Cotter must be reckoned the most interesting figure, they are all well known to English spectators; indeed the selection of one of them, the veteran Gregory, argues a reverence for departed prowess which is not usually reckoned a colonial attribute. But the Australians possess two qualifications that will always render them attractive. The one is their migratory character; the other their superiority to county elevens and the well-founded confidence with which they are able to challenge the united strength of the old country to battle. Of late years these characteristics have become more and more marked; and what in 1882 was regarded either as an indelible disgrace to English cricket, or hastily attributed to the single genius of Spofforth, has come to be a contingency against which the utmost precautions cannot be trusted to secure us.

On the last occasion on which England met Australia it was generally held that the colonial eleven was a four-man team; Hill, Trumper, Noble and Trumble standing out conspicuously amongst a number of highly capable but scarcely brilliant players. Their failure reduced the side to the level of our strongest county teams; their success deprived our best elevens of any margin of strength which on paper they might reasonably have claimed. Of those four men Trumble alone is absent from the present combination, and some of the other members, notably Armstrong, Laver and Hopkins, are admitted on all sides to have substantially improved. It is the common view—and no doubt it possesses a considerable degree of truth—that while the eleven is as powerful in batting and fielding as any that has represented Australia during the last ten years, the bowling is appreciably weaker. But this opinion must only be interpreted in a strictly relative sense. It is true that our visitors can boast no name as great as that of Spofforth or Turner, none perhaps as great as Trumble or as the Jones of 1899. Noble, on his day the most dangerous bowler on the side, is not quite as consistent as he was six years ago; Macleod, good man though he may be, is hardly in the first rank; Hopkins, Laver and Armstrong have yet to prove that they are more than excellent changes; Howell is scarcely the bowler of 1898; and Cotter is probably no better than Koetze, the South African, if indeed he be as good. As Murdoch put it some years ago, the Australians no longer possess a bowler who can be relied on "to get a side out in a hurry"; who can use a moderately good wicket with the astonishing power and certainty which was shown by Spofforth and by Turner. On pitches, when others were comparatively harmless, these men were unplayable; just as in their prime were Richardson, Lockwood and Peel; and the difference between such bowlers and the ordinary first-class trundler can only be appreciated by those who have played with them. Nor again can the Australians show a bowler of the originality of Bosanquet; and they are further handicapped by the want of a left-hander. It is indeed a curious fact that a country which has produced so many great left-handed batsmen should be so destitute of high-class left-hand bowlers.

On the other hand the season is yet young; and

want of practice and the chill of May may lead us to underestimate the strength of the colonists in the field. They have many men to rely on, and although none of them has yet done anything exceptional they all belong to the class of bowlers who get men out. Like all who have learnt the game under the severe discipline of Australian wickets they are, with the possible exception of Cotter, accurate bowlers who thoroughly understand their business and are consequently little liable to panic. They are commanded by a resolute and skilful captain who in ten years of international cricket has had ample opportunities of studying the strength and the weakness of the best of English batsmen; and they will be supported by that bold yet scientific management of the field which has been one of the most stimulating characteristics of Australian elevens. The art of using six bowlers to the best advantage is a difficult one; but to possess it is to possess the secret of modern cricket: and to no team in the world can coolness and experience have imparted a larger share of the necessary knowledge than to the eleven which Darling has so often led to victory. If the Australians prove victorious we shall regard it as the most striking proof which even they have yet given the cricket world of the value of combination and ingenuity in a struggle with a team individually more powerful.

We do not envy the Board of Selection the task of choosing the elevens to represent England. Presumably Martyn or the veteran Lilley will keep wicket; and the old Oxonian is so brilliant a stumper and so courageous a bat that we are inclined to give him the preference. Hirst is in good form, and on his day perhaps the most dangerous bowler in England; and unless Rhodes' bowling shows a very marked decline his fine all-round cricket will surely earn him a place. Probably our two best medium-pace bowlers are Arnold and Thompson; but if the Worcestershire man is in form his larger experience gives him a stronger claim to the place of bowler No. 3. The choice of a fast bowler lies between Brearley, Warren and Wass. We are told that the last named greatly impressed the Australians last week; and bad field as he is his claims will have to be considered. If the ground is hard no side can safely enter the field nowadays without a "curly" bowler; and Braund and Bosanquet are both stronger candidates for this place than Jones, who in our opinion must play for his batting alone. Braund is a marvellous field, and a better bat than Bosanquet; but the old Oxonian is very good in both departments and if he is in form with the ball he may easily decide a match. And now comes the great question, How is the remainder of the team to be composed? Jackson, Jones and Hayward must surely play; their past records and their present form render their choice inevitable. There remain only two places into which to pour all the qualities of Maclaren, Ranjitsinhji, Fry, Jessop, Denton, Tyldesley, Braund, and a host of fine batsmen and brilliant fieldsmen too numerous to mention. The weak point of the eleven, however composed, will we think lie in the fielding. Jackson, mighty cricketer as he is, was never a brilliant field; and the same remark applies to Hayward and Ranjitsinhji. Even Fry is scarcely in the first class. On the other hand Jessop is a magnificent coverpoint; and Denton and Tyldesley are perhaps the finest two long fields in the world. We are not sure that in the absence of a really great fast bowler, such as Richardson, it would not be better to leave the bowling in the hands of Bosanquet, Hirst, Arnold and Rhodes with changes in Jessop, Jackson and Jones; and substitute for the fast bowler another batsman, such as Maclaren or Tyldesley, with their rare powers of run-getting and run-saving on all kinds of wickets. In this case our eleven would consist of Jackson, to whom common rumour ascribes the captaincy, Jones, Hayward, Fry, Hirst, Rhodes, Arnold, Bosanquet, Jessop, Martyn, and Tyldesley.

Much of course will depend on the state of the ground; and on a slow wicket we presume that more batsmen and fewer bowlers would be the order of the day. On a hard wicket, on the other hand, the difficulty will not consist in making runs but in preventing the other side from making them. And in order to obtain this we must not be afraid to sacrifice a

portion, perhaps a quite inappreciable portion, of our batting power. For the apprehension most generally felt at the present time is not so much that we shall be beaten as that we shall not be strong enough to win in the limited time allowed.

## MOTORING.

THE news of the disastrous conclusion to the Algiers-Toulon motor-boat race should have caused no great surprise to anyone. Disaster was in fact bound to happen unless the elements were exceptionally propitious, a not very common occurrence at this time of the year, the Mediterranean having a notoriously bad reputation for sudden storms. We have previously called attention in this column to the folly of allowing racing motor-boats to enter for ocean events. It is true that if the weather is extraordinarily fine, as was the case when the cross-Channel race was run last year, these tremendously engined craft provide a fine spectacle, but to encourage makers to build for speed and speed alone is to encourage an unhealthy type of boat, only fit for smooth-water conditions, and even then, as was instanced at Monaco, frequently untrustworthy on account of excessive engine strain and vibration.

The Algiers-Toulon race was stated to be only open to cruisers, but apart from insisting that all competing craft must be decked and must carry five passengers together with enough fuel for the whole of each day's run, the management seem to have left all other points of design and construction to the makers, with the result that we get such a boat as Fiat X. entering for an ocean event and moreover, by reason of extraordinary luck in weather conditions winning, the first day's race from Algiers to Port Mahon in Minorca. This little craft is only 30 feet in length—many steam yachts carry a larger and certainly a more wholesome power-propelled boat—her beam is not stated, but judging from photographs it is very small, and she is engined with a Fiat motor of 24 nominal horse-power, but, as the dimensions of the four cylinders are stated to be 125 mm. bore and 150 mm. stroke, her power must be largely in excess of this figure. It is interesting to note that Fiat X. is provided with a Thornycroft propeller and bevel gear reversing mechanism, enabling her, it is stated, to attain the same speed astern as forward, although it is difficult to see how this can be unless her lines differ radically from those of any motor-boat at present afloat.

The second stage of this race, from Port Mahon to Toulon, was started in weather which was decidedly rough and one might have thought that a postponement would have been dictated by common prudence. As the motor boats with their destroyer convoy left the land, the weather became worse and the two French cruisers "Kléber" and "Desaix" which were indicating the course, signalled a return to harbour. This signal, however, was either ignored or misunderstood, with the result that five out of the seven competing boats foundered, their crews being rescued with extreme difficulty.

In order to, as far as possible, guard against a repetition of this disaster, it behoves the organisers of similar events to draw up a very stringent set of regulations with regard to the types of craft eligible to enter. A minimum over-all length of 60 feet with only sufficient engine power to give about eight knots in smooth weather is none too little to secure moderate seaworthiness. A boat such as this should in addition possess great beam and a big freeboard but of course as the regulations for these events are framed at present, it would not be worth while for any maker to enter such a craft, as, given fine-weather conditions, she would be hopelessly outclassed by the racing boat thinly disguised as a cruiser by the addition of a light deck and a larger fuel tank.

On Monday last was formed the Marine Motor Club of Great Britain and Ireland, the headquarters of which will be temporarily situated at 119 Piccadilly. For some time past the Marine Motor Committee of the Automobile Club has found it increasingly difficult with the resources

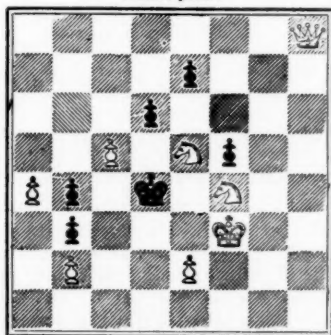


at its disposal adequately to meet the requirements of the growing industry. It was accordingly determined to form an independent body competent to deal with the subject of motor boating in all its forms and which should be recognised among yachtsmen and others as a thoroughly representative organisation. As the Automobile Club had been so largely instrumental in developing the application of the internal-combustion engine to the propulsion of vehicles, and had also done valuable pioneer work in respect of its use on the water by organising "reliability" trials and the race for the British International Cup, it was thought to be not inappropriate that it should interest itself in the promotion of a somewhat similar body, to whom it might entrust the continuance of the work thus initiated. To this end the Marine Motor Committee of the Automobile Club was instructed to draw up a scheme for the formation of this new club which will in future conduct the "reliability" trials, and organise and control the British International Cup Race. The Automobile Club has undertaken to provide a sum of £600 for the first year and £300 per annum for the two succeeding years towards the establishment of a club house at Southampton or other suitable place, and towards the other expenses of the club. Members of the Automobile Club will be admitted to membership of the new club at a reduced subscription, while the Automobile Club will retain a right of veto in any matter which might jeopardise its interests. After the adoption of the rules the first public business of the new club was the passing of a vote of sympathy with the organisers of the Algiers-Toulon motor-boat race in respect of the recent disaster.

## CHESS.

PROBLEM 16. SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY  
H. GREENWELL.

Black 6 pieces.



White 8 pieces.

White to mate in two moves.

The composer's intention is, with due regard for purity and economy, that a single black pawn shall act as a block on four different squares. There is reason to believe that this has not been previously accomplished.

PROBLEM 17, by A. TROITZKI. White: 3 pieces. K-Q5, P-KKt7, B-KR7. Black: 3 pieces. K-KKt4, R-KB3, P-KB2. Black to play and draw.

KEY TO PROBLEM 15: 1. K-K2.

The following game was recently concluded on the fourth board in the correspondence match between Lancashire and Durham:

## QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White	Black	White	Black
T. Kelly (Lancashire)	W. Brunton (Durham)	T. Kelly (Lancashire)	W. Brunton (Durham)
1. P-Q4	P-Q4	4. B-Kt5	B-K2
2. P-QB4	P-K3	5. Kt-B3	QKt-Q2
3. Kt-QB3	Kt-KB3	6. P-K3	P-QKt3

At this point black usually castles. His position is really less cramped than appears as afterwards with the single move of Kt-K5 he obtains considerable freedom.

7. P x P	Kt x P	11. B-Kt5	Castles
8. B x B	Q x B	12. Castles	P x P
9. R-B1	Kt x Kt	13. Kt x P	Kt-B4
10. R x Kt	P-QB4	14. Q-B2	B-Kt2

Unless a move like 6. P-QKt3 can be immediately followed up with the natural continuation of B-Kt2, it should as a rule be avoided. In this case the immediate consequence has been that white has obtained absolute possession of the open Queen's Bishop's file for nothing, and wins without much trouble.

15. P-QKt4	B-K5	17. B-B6	B x B
16. Q-B1	P-QR3	18. P x Kt	Q-Kt2

This is the only move to avoid the loss of a pawn.

19. P x P	B x P	21. Q-B6	QR-Kt
20. R-B7	Q-Q4		

Effectively illustrating the value of a passed pawn. Black has no time to play 21. B x R because or 22. Q x Q, P x Q 23. K x B and black will very soon have to give up one of his rooks for the advanced pawn.

22. Q x Q	B x Q	26. Kt-B5	P-QR4
23. R-Kt1	KR-B1	27. R-Kt2	P-KB4
24. R-Kt4	K-B1	28. P-KB4	Resigns
25. Kt-Kt3	K-K1		

A remarkable position. Black cannot make a move which will avoid the loss of material. If K moves Kt-Q7 ch. If R x R then pawn retakes. White is threatening amongst other things R x P and if black continues R x Kt, then R-Kt8 ch.

From the seventh move to the finish every one of white's moves is a model of accurate and exact play. He pursues his advantage with the remorseless accuracy and precision of a Lasker.

## BRIDGE.

## DOUBLING.

NOTHING in the game of bridge appeals so strongly to the fancy of the inexperienced player as the privilege afforded to him of doubling the declaration, and he is always looking out for opportunities of exercising this privilege. The more experienced player, on the other hand, is very chary of exercising it, and it requires something extra good to induce him to double an original declaration made by a trustworthy opponent. If he has a good hand, on which he can see a certainty of saving the game, and a possibility of increasing his own score, he accepts that blessing with gratitude, and does not risk converting a secure position into an insecure one by a rash double. It must not be understood from this that a player should never double on anything short of a certainty—there are occasions when it would amount to a very backward policy not to do so, but he should always remember that doubling is attended by two grave dangers. In the first place, the matter does not end with the doubler, his opponents have the option of re-doubling, and he may find himself in the unpleasant position of losing a game which he had an absolute certainty of saving if he had restrained his ardour. Secondly, doubling a suit declaration gives enormous assistance to the player of the two hands. It tells him exactly where the strength in trumps lies, which is the very thing that he wants to know, and which it should be the policy of his opponents to conceal from him by every means in their power.

In the early days of bridge doubling was far more common than it is at the present day, partly because the principles of declaring were not thoroughly understood, and some players' declarations used to be very wild and unsound, and partly because in those days certain players imagined that there was a sort of poker element in the game and that it was possible to bluff with success. Experience very soon proved that any attempt at bluffing had a way of recoiling sharply on

the head of the would-be bluffer, and the recognised declarations are now so well known that the opportunities of doubling are by no means common.

As there are two distinct games at bridge, the No Trump game and the suit game, so there are two distinct forms of the double, doubling No Trumps and doubling a suit declaration. The double of No Trumps again must be divided under two heads, doubling with the lead and doubling as third player.

Doubling with the lead is comparatively simple. If the leader has seven certain or extremely probable tricks he should always double. Seven of a suit headed by ace, king, queen, or six headed by ace, king, queen, and another ace, are doubling hands. Some players do not double with the latter combination, as they say that the odd trick is a certainty if their long suit is good, and that, if it is not good, they may lose the game by doubling. There is reason in this argument, but experience teaches us that instances of a game, which could have been saved, being lost by this double are very rare, whereas there is a strong probability of the doubler advancing his score to the very useful point of 24, besides the considerable chance of winning the game. Players who do not take such a chance as this when it offers itself are unlikely to win much at the game. It is not sound to double No Trumps with six certain tricks, and then to say that you only trusted your partner for one trick. What do you imagine that the dealer declared No Trumps on? The probability is that, when your six tricks are accounted for, the dealer will put down his cards and say "The rest are mine", thereby scoring 24 instead of 12, and that point of 24 is such a very important one, either to get to yourself or to keep your opponents from reaching. It need hardly be said that, if the dealer's score is at 18 or more, the leader should not hesitate to double on six tricks, as it is practically immaterial whether the other side score 12 or 24, when 12 will win the game.

When the leader doubles No Trumps on one long suit, and is re-doubled by the declarer, he ought not to re-double again on anything short of an absolute certainty. He should remember that any distribution of the cards, however improbable, is always possible. Even if he holds eight of one suit, headed by ace, king, queen, it is quite possible that four of the remaining five cards of that suit may be in one hand, and if the declarer, being a sound player, re-doubles, the inferences point strongly to their being so placed.

Certain players may recollect an instance of this which occurred in actual play a few years ago. No Trumps were declared by the dealer, the eldest hand doubled holding ace, king, queen and four other clubs, and the ace and queen of diamonds. The dealer re-doubled and the process was continued up to the maximum of 100 points.

The dealer's hand was—

Hearts—Ace.  
Diamonds—King, 6.  
Clubs—Knave, 7, 5, 2.  
Spades—Ace, king, queen, knave, 4, 2.

The leader led out his three winning clubs and then another one hoping to come in with his ace of diamonds, but he never got another trick and lost four by cards amounting to 400 points. The dummy had two winning hearts and the ten and a small spade. The first double was not only perfectly sound but a very strong one, but when it was re-doubled, the original doubler ought to have realised that the dealer must be guarded in every suit.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE SUICIDE OF THE BAR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

14 May, 1905.

SIR,—Since all the expressions of opinion that have appeared in your paper on "the suicide of the Bar" have been from the barristers' point of view, perhaps I may be permitted to join issue on behalf of the inferior branch on one or two points. The article in your issue

of 6 May was evidently called forth by the fact that at many Quarter Sessions solicitors have obtained the right of audience before the committee constituted under the Licensing Act 1904. But seeing that up to this year the whole of the legal work in connexion with licensing and the right of audience before the then licensing authority were in the hands of solicitors (excepting only appeals to Quarter Sessions against the refusal to renew a licence) surely the net result, as regards the two branches of the legal profession, has been that in those cases where Quarter Sessions have granted solicitors the right to appear as advocates before the Licensing Committee, solicitors have merely retained a privilege analogous to that which they previously possessed, and in the remaining cases a portion of work, formerly theirs, has been handed over to the Bar. The desire of the public is, naturally, to get their work done efficiently and economically. The remarks of Lord Salisbury when this question came up before him as chairman of his local Quarter Sessions exemplify this and fairly represent the point of view of the majority of Quarter Sessions, which adopted a similar course in allowing solicitors this limited right of audience, on the ground that the economy resulting therefrom was distinctly to the interest of the public. With regard to the remedy or rather retaliation suggested; namely that barristers should adopt the practice of taking briefs from lay clients direct, perhaps it may give them pause when they remember that counsels' fees are quite honorary. Of course this point possesses no practical importance in the present state of affairs, since any barrister whose fees are not forthcoming can invoke the aid of the Law Society, and thus bring irresistible pressure to bear on the solicitor concerned. But what if a lay client, after briefing him direct, refused to pay his fees? Again, if legal etiquette be altered so that counsel may take briefs without the intervention of a solicitor, the result will be that the work now in the hands of the inferior branch will be usurped by the superior, and the much debated question of combining the two branches will be settled, not by the admission of both to equal and mutual rights, but by the annihilation of the one in favour of the other.

Yours, &c.

ÆQUITAS.

## RELIGION IN FRANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

12 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

SIR,—Mr. Robert Dell, in a letter published in your issue of Saturday, 13 May, misrepresents no doubt unwittingly the obvious meaning of mine of the previous Saturday. I therein pointed out to Mr. Samson that Clause 4 in the Amended Bill for the Separation of the Church from the State in France which he considered "crucial" was, in point of fact, a distinct advantage for the Catholic, and, therefore, for the Papal, party. If Mr. Dell, and those who write on the subject of the Separation would study the "Journal Officiel" instead of the distorted excerpts from the speeches delivered in the French Chamber of Deputies as reported in party newspapers, they would do wisely, for then they would be able to write more correctly concerning a matter which they evidently do not understand. It is not I who "imagine" that, if the Bill is carried through as approved by M. Combes, and, with a few slight modifications, endorsed by M. Bienvenu Martin and the advanced Radicals and Socialists, "it will lead to civil war", but such men as MM. Ribot, d'Haussonville, de Mun, Méline, Goblet, Ollivier, Brunetière, Coppée, Lemaitre, besides the editor of the "Temps", and of nearly every moderate paper in France, and even M. Jaurès himself. M. Ribot, who can certainly not be accused of clericalism, said in full Parliament, on the last occasion when this momentous question was discussed, "Beware what you are doing; you are driving the country to civil and to religious war". We are constantly being assured by the foreign correspondents accredited to our papers—and this seems to be also Mr. Dell's opinion—that the separation of the Churches from the State is "a national movement to shake off the yoke of Rome". About a month ago



a project was started to obtain the true opinion of the country by means of a public petition or plebiscite against the said separation project. The "Temps" stated a few days ago that in less than "three weeks the petition against the separation of the Churches from the State has been covered, in eight departments alone, by not less than two millions of legalised signatures"—that is to say, signatures of persons of both sexes over twenty-one years of age and not under—and there still remain some fifty departments whose returns have not yet been sent in. I have seen no mention of this remarkable fact in any London paper. On Saturday last, the protests of the population of the Departments of Meurthe-et-Moselle and Vosges were published in the Parisian papers as 85,000 for the former and 138,000 for the latter! At this rate, in another month at least two-thirds of the population will have signed this petition against the Bill. I believe the general opinion in France at present is that if the Bill does pass the Palais Bourbon it will be thrown out in the Senate. It is distinctly unpopular.

The date of the memorandums of the Reformed Churches of France and of the Jewish community against the Bill for the separation of the Churches from the State is 27 November, 1904. These addresses dealt with the Bill presented on 10 November by M. Combes, but as Lord Llandaff puts it in a note to his letter which appeared recently in the "Times", "save in one respect, the criticisms of the General Council (of the Reformed Churches) are applicable to the later Bill as well as to that of M. Combes. Both Bills repeal the Organic Articles of 1802, and suppress all salaries and grants in aid of Protestant ministers and churches. With regard to religious edifices, churches, chapels, and presbyteries, M. Combes' Bill is more favourable to Protestant communities than the Bill of his successors; and it proposed a system of pensions for ministers now receiving salaries from the State, which was less illiberal than the system proposed by the Bill of 1904. It is obvious, therefore, that the objections raised by the General Council to M. Combes' Bill apply still more strongly to the present Bill."

The opinion of Lord Llandaff, a man of exceptional ability and acute observation, is undoubtedly worthy both of respect and consideration. His lordship further remarked in the April number of the "National Review", "All buildings used for worship (cathedrals, churches, chapels, synagogues) and for the housing of the ministers of religion are declared to be the property of the State or of the communes. The use of these buildings is granted to the different denominations for two years free of charge: for ten years more at a fixed rate on a repairing lease. After that period it is optional with the State or the communes to charge what rent they please, or to turn these buildings to other purposes. We may live to see the venerable shrine of Rheims or of Chartres turned into a music-hall; and Notre Dame once more devoted to the cult of the 'Goddess of Reason'."

Let us hope, however, that the common sense of the French people will avoid the scandal above indicated, which would inevitably lead to scenes of bloodshed and violence. History repeats itself unfortunately only too often, and those who have lived through the Commune of '70 will bear me witness that when inflamed by the lust of blood and egged on to riot by professional demagogues and fanatics, there is no excess which a French mob, and especially a Socialist-managed one, may not be induced to perpetrate.

Yours very truly,  
RICHARD DAVEY.

#### THE ROYAL ACADEMY AND NATIONAL ART.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

20 Fairlawn Park, W., 15 May, 1905.

SIR,—Mr. MacColl has fairly caught me tripping; I meant to say that the Academy exhibitors, insiders and outsiders, represent nine-tenths of our most accomplished artists; and my complaint was that all were discredited for the purpose of discrediting the Academy, and in consequence the whole of our national Art is depreciated. This comes through the fatal mistake of mixing Art Politics with judgment in Art as such. In

this year's exhibition there are fifty-three Academical exhibitors, and 1,219 outsiders; yet this great majority of artists are discredited to punish the small minority. This is unfair and may prove suicidal.

With regard to Mr. MacColl's scheme for making the Academy a co-ordinating centre, as I said, the principle of that is good; but I urged objections which he combats but does not quite remove, and others occur to me. He seems, however, to have a thought in the back of his mind which is in the forefront of mine. It is this. While all the other exhibiting societies display fresh work, it would be too bad to condemn the Academy to discount its own special show by a large infusion of second-hand work, so to speak; so no very drastic changes can be made in that direction. But as other societies have more than one exhibition in the year, why should not the Academy hold a second show of the cream of all the exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom? The works might be gathered by the means which enabled us to send out such a magnificent collection to St. Louis, or by better means that might be devised. Every society should select the works by which it elects to be represented, and as all its members could not have works shown, the privilege should be a special honour to be striven for. This might throw a little new energy into men who are now dulled by the security of membership. Each society might be allotted space in proportion to its status, and the works be hung by its own representatives; or the whole exhibition be arranged by a committee of delegates from all the various bodies. To stimulate interest in this general exhibition part of the Chantrey fund should be expended in purchasing works from it. This would be nearly as good as the committee visiting all parts of the kingdom; and it would make the Academy a real co-ordinating centre, without making it play second fiddle to other societies that would have the privilege, denied to the Academy's special exhibition, of showing only fresh works. There are objections, but none are unanswerable; there would be difficulties, but no insuperable ones; and there would be advantages that your space does not permit me even to catalogue. A hint sufficeth for the wise.

Yours faithfully,  
E. WAKE COOK.

[I cheerfully allow Mr. Cook his persuasion that I secretly cherish an admiration for the whole of the 1,219 accomplished artists, and ignore them from the darkest motives. To the scheme of a national exhibition, and objections in detail, I must return at some other time; but I may say briefly that if applied arts were included in a new Academy scheme it might be desirable to hold an autumn exhibition, and group with this section the architectural drawings and some part of the sculpture.—D. S. MACCOLL.]

#### WOMEN'S DEGREES AT T.C.D.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Camla Cottage, Greystones, 13 May.

SIR,—Let me assure you that you are quite misinformed about ad eundem degrees. They can be claimed as a right by anyone who pays the fees and produces a certificate of character. When conferred on men they are advertised as much as the same degrees given to women and no more. The question of residence in a university town is never raised, and the degrees are given as a matter of course to all applicants who comply with the conditions mentioned above.

Yours, &c.  
R. Y. TYRRELL,  
Registrar, Dublin University.

#### LONDON PLAYING FIELDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 15 May, 1905.

SIR,—“An Old Blue” welcomes in your last issue the permission lately granted by the L.C.C. for the use of their school playgrounds by properly supervised parties of young people over the age of thirteen, and

suggests that athletes never had better opportunity to make use of their knowledge of games by giving some of their leisure hours to this kind of social work. Perhaps some old public-school or university man who reads "An Old Blue's" letter might be tempted to take the hint, and in that case I would ask him to make himself known to Lieut.-Colonel Vernon Mellor, organising secretary of the Twentieth Century League, 28 Victoria Street, S.W., or to Mr. C. R. Crookes, hon. secretary of the Federation of London Working Boys' Clubs, 12 Trafalgar Square, Chelsea, S.W., either of whom would, I am sure, put him into immediate touch with the recreative needs of the young working classes in London.

The best centres for all recreations dear to youth are boys' clubs. There are a considerable number in London, but the great majority are far too short-handed to do really good work. I feel certain they would no longer remain so, if our best public-school and university men realised that these working boys are just as fond of cricket, football, running, swimming, boxing and gymnastics as ever they were themselves, and only need the opportunity to be placed before them in the same way as school and college authorities do for those in their charge. I have no doubt whatever that any assistance given to a boys' club or cadet corps is of the utmost importance to the nation and a source of much enjoyment to the giver. I speak from twenty-four years' almost daily experience in one of the most active boys' clubs in London, and can say that even now I thoroughly enjoy being with the boys at a swimming bath four mornings a week at 7 A.M., and after my day's work and theirs is done meeting them in the club and looking after other recreations, as also attending their cricket and football matches on Saturday afternoons. Yet we could do with the regular help of at least three active athletes of genial temperament, and so could many another boys' club I could mention.

There is no better antidote to the alleged physical-deterioration poison than such centres of activity, with their practically public-school life. They are needed in scores and hundreds all over this country, but unless the athletes of whom "An Old Blue" speaks step at once into the breach and in addition the younger officers of the army take greater personal interest in the class of youths who join the ranks, there will be no immediate advance in the social or military reforms which are so much talked about just now.

The Japanese possess some secret of success which seems to be centred in patriotism and self-sacrifice. If every athlete and officer set himself to develop sympathetically the latent powers, both physical and intellectual, of the young working classes, I fancy we should find ourselves possessed of a similar secret. The inborn love of the average healthy British boy for outdoor sports is a national asset of supreme value, and the Twentieth Century League is doing a wise thing in attempting to popularise all kinds of social recreative work amongst the young of both sexes within the metropolitan area, whether in clubs, cadet corps, brigades or on school playgrounds.

I am, your obedient servant,  
AN OLD ETON BLUE.

#### ALLEGED DECLINE IN THE AUSTRALIAN BIRTH-RATE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 17 May, 1905.

SIR,—Not long ago a London journal, commenting upon the alleged decline of the birth-rate in Australia, remarked that if the Australian population does not increase British power there is doomed. I have been astonished to find, during a holiday I have been spending in London that this appears to be a very general impression. The impression no doubt had its origin in a somewhat startling paper published some months ago by the Government Statistician of New South Wales the gravity of which led to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject. "The problem of the fall in the birth-rate" wrote the statistician referred to "is a national one of overwhelming importance to the Australian people, perhaps

more than to any other people, and on its satisfactory solution will depend whether this country is ever to take its place amongst the great nations of the world". "In whatever way" reported the Royal Commission "the waning birth-rate of New South Wales is viewed . . . it is seen as a grave disorder, sapping the vitals of a new people, dispelling its hopes, blighting its prospects, and threatening its continuance". Mr. Teece the General Manager of the Australian Mutual Provident Society wrote a report upon the question for the guidance of his directors, and this report was no more encouraging than those already quoted.

But there is an aspect of this question which has been too much overlooked if it has not been altogether ignored. Against the decreasing birth-rate must be taken into consideration the decreased death-rate. This lower death-rate in the Australasian States compares favourably with similar rates in other and more densely populated countries. Mr. R. M. Johnson D.O.S. the able statistician for Tasmania in his report for the year 1901 wrote "Had the birthrate of the former decade maintained itself in the decade ending in 1901, it is estimated that the births would have numbered 57,106 instead of the actual 48,374; that means a loss of 8,732 to the population from this cause alone. As a set-off to this, however, there has also been a wonderful fall in the death-rate. During the decade 1881-91 the average death-rate was 16·20 per thousand; in the decade ending in 1901 the average death-rate fell to 13·13 per thousand. This difference represents a saving of 5,138 lives and a corresponding gain to the population". Mr. Johnson points to the important fact that during the earlier stages of their progress the colonies necessarily had a rapid increase in population due (1) to the large proportional influx of immigrants from older countries, and (2) to the favourable hygienic conditions of a thinly populated country tending to prolong the average life, and consequently to produce a much lower death-rate than is found common in the crowded centres of population of the Old World—an abnormal rate of increase that would naturally decline after the "pastoral" stage had been reached.

There is one factor which must not be overlooked in considering the future population of Australia. The factor I allude to is the possibility of much being done to save the many thousands of infant lives that are now being sacrificed from preventable causes—apart altogether from the deliberate destruction of infant life. Dealing with the death-rate of infants as indicated by statistics relating to the Commonwealth and New Zealand for nineteen years (1884 to 1902 inclusive) Dr. P. E. Muskett, who has given a large amount of attention to the subject, in the sixth edition of his work on "The feeding and management of Australian infants in health and disease" writes: "In the nineteen years . . . in Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, there have been 303,070 deaths of infants under two years of age. But though this fact is appalling enough in itself it becomes still more deplorable when it is remembered that probably 150,000 of these deaths could have been prevented . . . The total number of deaths under five years of age during the period under consideration amounted to 345,096. From this it will be evident that out of 345,096 children (under five years of age) no less than 303,070 died before they were two years old. In like manner the total number of deaths for these nineteen years amounted to 975,066. Of these 975,066 deaths at all ages, as many as 303,070 failed to reach the age of two years. That is to say, of all these 975,066 deaths nearly one-third were infants who were not two years old. These figures" he continues "total up an alarming average. Yet when placed in the form of daily life leakage their significance becomes more apparent. The daily loss of infants (under two years of age) in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand is just upon forty-four . . . Of this number probably twenty-two could be prevented".

Let us for a moment consider what even the present low rate of increase of population in the Commonwealth—which so many thoughtful men are deploring—would mean in the course of the next hundred years, dating from the year of the last census and taking the annual rate of increase at 1·73 per cent. only. And



here again I quote the figures of our Tasmanian statistician because I know them to be eminently trustworthy.

In the year 1902 the population of the Commonwealth was ... .. 3,883,822

Calculated upon the basis above stated it would increase in decades as follows:

1910	to	4,455,037	1970	to	12,467,804
1920	"	5,288,607	1980	"	14,800,610
1930	"	6,278,144	1990	"	17,570,000
1940	"	7,452,832	2000	"	20,857,405
1950	"	8,847,310	2001	"	21,218,202
1960	"	10,502,700	2002	"	21,585,350

Even making allowance for the non-realisation of these reasonable anticipations we have the further factor to consider that the pressure of over-population in older countries, forcing a stream of emigration, must necessarily benefit Australasia during the next century, and more than compensate for any leakage in this direction.

I think I have said sufficient to indicate that there is another aspect of this question than that which has given rise to the pessimistic notions that at present obtain. The report of the statistician relating to the birth-rate in New South Wales for last year is much more encouraging than his report for the previous year; and personally I am of opinion that there is no room for alarm or anxiety regarding the future population of the Australian Commonwealth.

ALFRED J. TAYLOR,  
Public Librarian, Hobart, Tasmania.

#### THE "STANDARD" ON LIFE ASSURANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

13 May, 1905.

SIR,—No doubt the crudeness of expression in my letter, which you were good enough to publish last week, has placed the writer of your article on the above subject at a disadvantage in replying to my several plain questions. I can therefore readily understand his difficulty and make due allowance for the poverty of his rejoinders. Albeit his answers are no answers, and can only in courtesy and truth be designated evasions. Kindly permit me to deal with these points once more in their order.

1st. Neither in my "Standard" article nor in your columns have I attacked the propriety of the Life assurance companies holding reserves in respect of existing liabilities. Nothing could possibly be urged against funds so created being invested in good securities at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 per cent. interest. What I have asserted, and herein emphasise, is that very many millions of surplus reserves have been accumulated and are being accumulated from lapsed and surrendered policies. These belong to no one in particular, and are held purely and simply to inflate the several companies interested, and to act as attractions to prospective insurers.

I do not anticipate your contributor will suggest that the commercial prosperity of London is based on a  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. margin. It should therefore be obvious that if the millions alluded to were free to be utilised in pursuits of commerce and enterprise, their reproductive force would be accentuated. The money would then belong to the many instead of the comparatively few insurance shareholders into whose hands its control has fallen, and by which mishap its recreative energy is "stultified". I trust this will make my meaning quite plain.

2. Your writer has made no attempt whatever to answer this question. I asked in respect of the gigantic surplus reserves, by which I mean funds derived from lapses and surrenders, whether the system was unsound before these existed. They are now ostensibly held as security. For what?

3. Actuaries unfortunately are apt to have a ready answer for every inquiry, and can assume as occasion demands that "every assurer may die immediately", or they may avail themselves of the average "death ratios". I have had ample experience of this. If however the mortality ratios are to do service, why do the actuaries fail to take cognisance of the death ratios of policies by lapse and surrender, why are statistics

accepted on the one hand and ignored on the other? If the factors mentioned were taken into account, the national peril, for it is a national peril, involved in the accumulation of these surplus reserves would be checked.

4. Your contributor says, "It is true that successful Life offices are frequently very profitable for the shareholders provided such companies give good value to the policy-holders". At first glance surely nothing could appear to be simpler than this. It is apparently quite in the proper order of things. What, however, are the facts? Let us be frank. Dividends of 80, 90, 100 and even higher percentages per annum, to shareholders, on shares abnormally inflated by bonuses, but upon which next to nothing in actual cash has been paid. Add to this a fanciful market value, per share, then picture the policy-holder bloated with an average bonus of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and you have the truth. Is it the shareholder or the policy-holder (who supplies the money) who has the best of this bargain, and by whose measure is the so-called success of the company to be measured, by that of the shareholder or by that of the policy-holder?

5. My contention that the expenses of a company should be assessed on its outpayment of benefits and not on its premium income has been deemed to be "curious". Such a suggestion would not however be looked upon as a curiosity in the commercial world, in which brokers, merchants, shipowners &c. usually weigh their expenses against the net benefits attained. In this respect I may reasonably assume that my view is founded on common sense, although no doubt other methods might be better adapted to other ends.

An excerpt from the New York "World", which I enclose herewith, will demonstrate that my contention is not quite so "curious" as might be supposed, the only curious thing about it being that the writer entirely endorses my proposition in this respect.

Before passing from this point, permit me to draw attention to the fact that the expenses of a new company "having no claims" would be charged in the main against capital. Your contributor must know this as well as I do.

6. I quite agree that "no information is available for the Life offices, as a whole, showing the amount received by the companies for policies which have lapsed or have been surrendered". Of course not. But why? This is the crux of the whole question. Hence arise the surplus millions. This is the nut which requires to be cracked. The kernel will justify the exertion.

7, 8. Your expert writer is well aware that he has offered no solution of these critical questions concerning the average operative age of policies generally, or the numbers which do and do not mature in claims. To refer the general public to the "Index to the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries" is tantamount to referring an enquirer to the archives of the Inquisition. These are dark and unattainable.

9. No answer whatever has been vouchsafed to my assertion that the ancient theorems of the professors have been shattered by practice. It is not in details that improvement is required. It is the foundation of the system which demands readjustment. It is all very well to say that the system is sound. It is its over-soundness which is the subject of debate. True soundness should include equity, whereas the vast excess security is utterly unjust to the policy-holder though prodigal in its dowries to the shareholders. It is here that alteration is unquestionably required. The enormous surplus funds might be decreased by many millions, and the system be still properly sound even from a policy-holder's point of view.

Yours, &c.

THE WRITER OF THE "STANDARD" ARTICLE.

[We have dealt with the writer of this letter more than once in our insurance column. We have allowed him a quite excessive proportion of space that he might not think himself unfairly suppressed. He would have done well to show his sense of our courtesy in some other way than by the adoption of an offensively discourteous tone.—Ed. S. R.]

## REVIEWS.

## ENGLISHMAN AND HUMOURIST.

"Sydney Smith." By G. W. E. Russell. (*English Men of Letters.*) London: Macmillan. 1905. 2s. net.

IT is the fate of great humourists, we cannot explain why, to be remembered only by their jests. Immortality as poet or as statesman would by no means seem inevitably to carry with it oblivion of all other attributes. Nothing indeed is more painful than the prominence now assigned to what is small and irrelevant in the biographies of men whose lives, apart from the fact that they wrote or did one or two things, might well be left in peace. If however a man win reputation as humourist, all else appears to be swallowed up in appreciation of the grand fact that he made jokes. Perhaps the world is unable to consider him, who has made it laugh so often, as a complex creature, a man with a life. Or it may be that humour is so universally felt to be the rarest and most godlike of all mortal gifts that all other facts about a man, in proximity with this, pale into invisibility. Anyhow, we are glad to have this very pleasant and satisfactory book about Sydney Smith. It proves—if proof were needed—that humour in a man is not merely an art of making jokes; not merely one attribute of his character; but something that pervades and magnifies the whole personality. Thanks to Mr. Russell, hundreds of the present generation of readers, who hitherto have had no idea of Sydney Smith save as the utterer of good things which they have heard in snatches, will learn for the first time that in Sydney Smith they are confronted by one of the most engaging, consistent, typical, and definite figures of English life in the last century. In politics Sydney Smith exemplified the Liberalism of pure common sense as signally as Dr. Johnson exemplified the Toryism of pure common sense. To consider him a Whig, in the sense that any political party, as such, could have retained his unconditional allegiance, would be a mistake indeed. His whole career was one unswerving adherence to certain principles; not principles, it is true, of much transcendental or even philosophic significance, but principles concrete, workable, and within their limits (which he never exceeded) impregnable sound. Nobody would call him an idealist—he would himself, we make no doubt, have repudiated the title—and his fidelity to the set of ideas that governed his life is hence the more remarkable. He seems to have had the singular capacity of deriving from a few quite unadorned and practical tenets the impetus and fire which usually men only get by virtue of some high vision or large ideal. In 1830, the eve of the Reform Bill, he writes (a propos of the Beerhouse Act), "Everybody is drunk. The Sovereign People are in a beastly state". To the poetry of Liberal politics—glimpses of a republic laid up in the clouds, dreams of joy in widest commonalty spread—he appears to have been wholly indifferent. So clear and vivid, however, is his appreciation of what is tangibly right, here and now, that he not only educes heat from the contemplation of it, but positively communicates heat to his reader. He was probably the least rhetorical and sentimental person of his age; but the very absence of rhetoric and sentiment in his writing has the paradoxical effect of raising his arguments above themselves and of endowing them, occasionally, with something that almost approaches a poetic force. In some of his sermons this is well seen. Of spirituality, in a mystical sense, there is no hint. What we may call the romantic side of religion, its ecstasies and agonies, he seems to have regarded quite frankly as so much pernicious bosh. Wherever in the course of exhortation he drops into such terms or allusions as are inalienable from a miraculous theology we feel instantly that he becomes conventional, that he is saying what is expected of his profession, not what (in any vital or personal measure) he feels. But when he is on his own ground, appealing to the cardinal motives of honour, independence, humanity—carrying out, in short, his own maxim that "it is of much more importance to tell men how they are to be Christians in detail than to exhort them to be Christians generally"—his words have an unmistakable glow. "What shall

we say to the man who would wilfully destroy with fire the temple of God, in which I am now preaching? Far worse is he who ruins the moral edifices of the world, which time and toil, and many prayers to God, and many sufferings of men, have reared; who puts out the light of the times in which he lives." On the whole we accept Mr. Russell's view of Sydney Smith's religion; but it is hardly just to call him a Philistine. Sydney Smith's indifference to mysticism was part of a considered and consistent scheme of thought. If to us he seem blind on this side, we must remember that on another side he had eyes for what his own age could not see. He was not only a good man—a man perennially cheerful, humble, affectionate, unselfish, prepared to sacrifice anything for principle, in many ways a model parish clergyman—but his virtue was also knowledge. He had a profound, if not very imaginative, perception of the moral issues that underlie the world, and he lived in conscious relation to those issues. To think of him simply as philanthropist or humanitarian, with the associations those words now carry, is not enough. He lived to improve the status of mankind at a time when the status of mankind was of very small concern even to members of his own sacred profession. A Philistine is essentially a complacent person, a person with whom cant is omnipotent. Sydney Smith all his life was engaged (often single-handed) in warfare with the spirit of complacency. He set himself to prick the pious humbug of people who unconsciously cloaked and justified, by abstract arguments and sounding phrases, quite mean and ordinary motives. "God Save the King", you say, warms your heart like the sound of a trumpet. I cannot make use of so violent a metaphor; I am delighted to hear it . . . but 'God Save the King', in these times, too often means—God save my pension and my place, God give my sisters an allowance out of the Privy Purse—make me Clerk of the Irons. . . ."

Sydney Smith was unique in being a typical Englishman and a fine humourist at the same time. The metaphysical aspect of things in general he disregarded altogether, and with metaphysicians in the technical sense he had a short way not unlike Johnson's. Art, it is unnecessary to add, had no meaning for him except as an appendage, an amenity, of life. He read and enjoyed sound authors; but his literary culture, like his religion and his political opinions, belonged wholly to the region of practical instinct, of what in this country we call "plain" reasoning. His æsthetic tendencies, so far as he had any, were the casual promptings of nature—likes and dislikes which he probably never analysed and to which, certainly, he attached no great importance. "He admired the beauties of a smiling landscape." "Music in the minor key made him melancholy." All this is supremely English. And yet, with these insularities, his mind was in no sense parochial. Of all men Sydney Smith illuminates the truth that a man of humour can be neither provincial nor ephemeral. A man may have all other gifts—acute powers of reason, brilliancy of wit, even poetic genius—and still be quite inside his own class and generation. Humour alone, and invariably, removes the mind to a distance and enables a man to see his own time and environment as they appear on the outside. "I am sick of these little clerico-political meetings. . . . Here we are, a set of obscure country clergymen, at the 'Three Tuns', at Thirsk, like flies on the chariot-wheel; perched upon a question of which we can neither see the diameter, nor control the motion, nor influence the moving force. What good can such meetings do? They emanate from local conceit, advertise local ignorance . . . swell that mass of paper lumber, which, got up with infinite rural bustle, and read without being heard in Parliament, is speedily consigned to merited contempt." This is the language of a born humourist—a man by his very nature incapable of riding a theory to death, of magnifying a small thing, of enslaving himself unconsciously to any fashion. His brilliant remark about Grote, that Grote "would have been an important politician if the world had been a chess-board", shows with what success he applied the solvent power of his humour even to men and doctrines that might have seemed to conform, in the main, with



his own type of thought. But with Sydney Smith humour always comes first. In other words, he always begins by seeing a thing in its exact proportions. Whatever is too rigid for humanity, whatever takes itself too seriously, he is prompt to demolish. And his literary style is the natural product of so human a temper. It surprises us by its freshness, its freedom from the airs of a period. The style and atmosphere of political writers like Milton and Burke are higher no doubt in the scale of intellectual genius, but it must be admitted (to drop the usual pretence) that sometimes a painful adjustment of the mind is needed before we can so far disentangle the thought from the rhetoric as to consider ourselves repaid for our trouble. These archangels of political prose have a somewhat inhuman solemnity which becomes a little trying where the matter is quite commonplace, as it often is. With a writer like Sydney Smith we need no such adjustment. He is readable, just as Bagehot is readable, because he appeals directly to any age. As humour gives to his outlook a nice sense of proportion, so the humour of his words themselves resides in their exact felicity. "There are always a set of worthy and moderately-gifted men who bawl out death and ruin upon every valuable change . . ." The adjective is final. With Sydney Smith humour became even a moral excellence. It is the humourist who begs his mild curate not to desist from attending a clerical meeting, even though it be to vote against his rector; and it is the humourist also who, relegated to the country, writes: "I am resolved, therefore, to like it, and to reconcile myself to it; which is more manly than to feign myself above it, and to send up complaints by the post, of being thrown away, and being desolate, and such like trash."

We notice here, as we have noticed before, that Mr. Russell has the knack, not only of writing pleasantly and quoting judiciously, but also—what is much more important—of leaving in the mind a very definite portrait. Abundance of quotation, a practice not always to be encouraged, is in this book a conspicuous merit. Sydney Smith is essentially of those writers who speak for themselves. The assistance he has received from Mr. Russell is judged to a nicety.

#### A WORTHLESS BOOK.

"Mr. Asquith." By T. P. Alderson. London: Methuen. 1905. 7s. 6d. net.

A PRACTICE has obtained during recent years of writing the biographies of statesmen before they are dead. The first of these pseudo-biographies which we can remember was Mr. T. P. O'Connor's *Life of Lord Beaconsfield*, written in the heyday of the latter's fame, of which a new edition has just appeared. There were, we think, one or two books on Mr. Gladstone published in his lifetime: there was a *Life of Lord Salisbury* written before he died: there is a *Life of Mr. Chamberlain*: and now we have a *Life of an Appreciation or a Monograph of Mr. Asquith*. This anticipation of events is not intelligent: it is hardly decent; and it does not make for good biography, either from a literary or an historical point of view. It is obvious that a memoir of a living political leader must be either the praise of a sycophant or the abuse of a partisan. Mr. O'Connor's *Lord Beaconsfield* was the latter: Mr. Alderson's "Mr. Asquith" is the former. It cannot be otherwise. Not until a statesman is dead, until he has no "connexion with honours and rewards", until he has no revenue but his record, and until the heat of partisanship has evaporated, can any serious measure of his character and work be attempted. Mr. Asquith has played the game of the political lawyer far more successfully, because he is far cleverer, than any of his contemporaries. His rhetoric is so first-rate that it is an open question whether he or Mr. Chamberlain is the best speaker in the House of Commons. His mind is so first-rate that during his short tenure of office he proved himself to be one of the ablest Home Secretaries that ever sat at Whitehall. In the next Liberal Government he may be Lord Chancellor, or

Home Secretary, or Chancellor of the Exchequer, or almost anything he likes. In one of these positions he will surely make for himself a reputation that will be treated seriously by responsible historians. But he has not done so yet, and as he is only fifty-five, and has only been in office for three years, we fail to see how he could have done so.

The most interesting chapter in the book is not due to Mr. Alderson. It consists of the reminiscences of Dr. Warren, the President of Magdalen College. Dr. Warren was an exact contemporary of Mr. Asquith at Oxford, and he has drawn upon his memory with perfect accuracy to remind the rising generation who the Balliol "intellectuals" of those days were. The list is a long one, and includes Lord Milner, Mr. Raleigh, the legal member of the Viceroy of India's Council, and Mr. H. W. Paul, who, though at Corpus, belonged to the Balliol gang. All were speakers and officials at the Union: but while some have "marched to power's meridian height", others have "sickened at the sight". Dr. Warren is, as one would expect, as generous and polite to the failures as to the successes. Still, his pleasant pen stirs the eternal and insoluble and painful question, why of two men of apparently equal abilities does one succeed and the other fail? Dr. Warren mentions one undergraduate whom the writer remembers as a speaker at the Union. His speeches were far more effective than Mr. Asquith's: his academic record was about as distinguished. He had wit and humour, in which Mr. Asquith is conspicuously deficient, and he was looked upon as the Disraeli of his day. Yet this man is now an assistant master at a public school, while Mr. Asquith has been Home Secretary and may be the next leader of the House of Commons. Why this gross discrepancy of achievement? In point of birth and fortune, the two men started level: why does one remain standing, while the other shoots ahead of all competitors? The explanation would be found in an analysis of the two men's characters, for character (bad as well as good) is far more important than brains in the race of life. Ten to one the man who was left behind had some kink in his character, some kink of cowardice, or modesty, or scrupulosity, or indolence. Probably he dared not put out his tiny bark in the sea of London, and preferred a safe haven, or, in other words, an assured competence.

Mr. Asquith deserves all the praise which Mr. Alderson and his newspaper friends shower upon him for his firm refusal, when Home Secretary, to release the dynamitards. It was a great relief to Liberals as well as Conservatives to find that a young Radical Minister had grit enough to defy the Irish. A still greater strain was put upon the constancy of a Liberal statesman by the Featherstone riot, when the military were ordered by the civil authority to fire and did fire upon some strikers. Mr. Asquith showed great coolness and courage in his defence of authority, though one could not help thinking at the time with a smile of Lord Salisbury's saying, upon a very different occasion, "Rabagas, when put in office, fired on the mob". Nor are we concerned to deny that Mr. Asquith did a great deal—quite as much if not more than his predecessor—to put down the evils of "sweating", both by enforcing the existing regulations and adding to them by a new Act, which perhaps went a little too far in the direction of parental legislation. This subject recalls an amusing incident. It was a hot afternoon in July and one of Mr. Asquith's clauses to prevent sweating was being "reported" from the Committee to the House, when a South London member, who had a loud and raucous voice, rose and shouted, "Mr. Speaker, I want to know who sweats? I say, the question is, who sweats?" Even the immobile face of Speaker Peel broke into a grin.

We do not know Mr. Alderson as an author. His style is that of a journalist. And his attempt to place Mr. Asquith on the pedestal of a defunct Prime Minister by piling up quotations from Hansard, from the "Daily News", and from "Toby M.P." merely reminds us of La Fontaine's saying that "a wise enemy is better than a foolish friend".

## WEISMANN'S LIFEWORK.

**"The Evolution Theory." By Dr. August Weismann.**  
Translated with the author's co-operation by J. A. Thomson and Margaret R. Thomson. Two Vols. Illustrated. London: Arnold. 1905. 32s. net.

THESE two volumes, excellently translated by Professor Thomson and his wife, have a permanent importance in the history of Zoology. After the names of Darwin and Wallace themselves there come three great names in close and enduring association with the Darwinian phase in the history of human thought. Huxley, in England, had the advantage of close association with Darwin in the years when the final shaping of "The Origin of Species" was in progress. Like Darwin, he had visited distant lands and had puzzled over the baffling similarities and divergencies of the fauna and flora of different geographical regions. His mind was stored with a multitude of anatomical problems, with the conception of graded series of structures forming concentric systems round ideal "types". Darwin's principle came to him as an inspiration of life into the dry bones of his museum of zoological facts, and as soon as he understood himself, he compelled the world to understand. He codified, expounded, illuminated the applications of the Darwinian theory. He applied it to a new order of facts. He showed that it was a necessary intellectual weapon, an inevitable part of the stock-in-trade of every future thinker, he wielded it and made others wield it, but in no single respect did he modify it. Haeckel, notwithstanding his great zoological knowledge, must be regarded as an artist whose medium is zoological detail, as a poet marshalling facts into rhythms, compelling discrete knowledge into an harmonious ode, and in the process using a full poetic license of elision and expansion. The artistic unity, the lyrical simplicity of Haeckel's treatment of the Darwinian principle has made the world resound with its vibrations, but Haeckel, like Huxley, handed on the torch as he received it. The third of the three great names, that of Weismann, has a different place in the history of the Darwinian theory. There is no such thing as Huxleyism; Haeckelism, although to Haeckel all honour is due, is not a term of praise; Weismannism is Darwinism expanded by a new half-century of work, tempered by passing through a critical, patient and imaginative intelligence. These volumes are not only the best account of Darwinism after Darwin, but the history of the passing of Darwinism into Weismannism. They consist of a series of lectures, in which from time to time, in his own University of Freiburg, Weismann explained to zoologists and to other workers in science the present attitude of his mind to the theory of evolution, set out the lines of inquiry to which these views led him, stated the new answers that he had obtained and propounded the new questions which the new answers had raised. The volumes are no cut-and-dried treatise; they are thought in the making.

At first, in 1867, Weismann was a patient follower of Darwin. Like Darwin, and unlike Huxley and Haeckel, he was a naturalist in the plainest sense of the term, profoundly interested in living things themselves in their relations to their surroundings, and more curious about their life histories than about their structure. The fourth lecture, for instance, is an essay on the coloration of animals, and recounts his observations and experiments on the relation between colour and environment. Here at once may be seen the beginnings of one of the peculiarities of Weismannism. Darwin, although there are writers who appear to have forgotten it, really believed in Natural Selection; but from time to time he wavered as to how far selection was the sole cause, the sufficient explanation of adaptation. Weismann from the first never seemed to doubt that, if observation were sufficiently careful, the "selection-value", the utility to the living thing whether embryo or adult, whether winter or summer form, of its colour and pattern could be detected. The chapters on Mimicry, on protective Adaptations in Plants, on the Instincts of Animals, on Organic Partnerships, on the Origin of Flowers are all in the exact method of Darwin; they are all instances of a close scrutiny of

nature inspired by a sympathetic intelligence, but in every case they are more Darwinian than Darwin, more resolutely bent on excluding every other factor than the factor of adaptation through selection.

Meanwhile, however, Weismann had been pursuing a line of inquiry which Darwin had left practically untouched. He had made a set of brilliant and difficult investigations into the microscopical processes of the development of insects and had spent years on the preparation of his monograph on the life-histories of the Hydro-Medusæ. These inquiries, along with study of much contemporary work by other zoologists, had led him to the beginning of his conception of the germ-plasm. If we omit side issues and unessential details, the theory of the existence of germ-plasm is not difficult to understand. It is that the little piece of living matter which is the beginning of any new organism, the fertilised egg-cell in most cases, almost at the earliest stage of separate existence, divides into two portions. One portion grows at the expense of the surrounding media, multiplies rapidly, and in obedience to its inherent or inherited qualities, if the requisite surrounding conditions are present, slowly shapes itself into the new organism like the parents from which it came. But in this development, it changes its qualities; instead of remaining a plasm with the complete possibilities of the race, it becomes simply the different tissues of an individual animal or plant, losing the greater part of its reproductive power. The part of it that has become nerve or muscle may remain capable of growing and reproducing so as to form more nerve or muscle, but loses its general reproductive power. Becoming specialised, it has become mortal. The other portion of the original mass remains practically unchanged. It is handed passively along, in the structural changes of the developing embryo, until it comes to lie in that part of the new organism which is to be the seat of the reproductive glands of the new organism. This second part is the germ-plasm; a material handed on from generation to generation in unbroken chain, at each generation dividing into a part which blossoms out to form the new and mortal individual and into a part, potentially immortal, which forms the reproductive cells of the new individual.

The first fruit of the conception of the germ-plasm was the theory as to the inheritance of acquired characters with which the name of Weismann is most familiarly associated. If the essential material, which, leaving a parent is to form the beginning of the new individual, is to be the bearer of the legacy of qualities inherited by the new individual, if this material were already formed at the beginning of the parent's life, it is difficult to see how the stresses and strains of the environment on the parent, how, in fact, the characters which the parent has acquired by reaction to the environment could be transmitted to the offspring. This theoretical difficulty, which, it is important to remember, started from actual microscopical observation, led Weismann first to an examination and then to a denial of the inheritance of acquired characters. Here also, he became more Darwinian than Darwin, for Darwin, though on the whole leaning against the Lamarckian factor of use-inheritance, never actually rejected it. In the second volume will be found a full discussion of the meaning and limitation of the words "inherited and acquired" and a summary of the arguments which have persuaded a majority of naturalists to follow Darwinism or Weismannism in this matter.

We have reached, however, only the beginning of the theory of the germ-plasm. Following Naegeli, De Vries and others, in various theoretical interpretations of the phenomena of inheritance, and taking much from microscopical researches into the nature of the nucleus of cells and the details of fertilisation, Weismann developed a conception of the architecture of the germ-plasm, of its physical structure, a conception in which there is a fascinating combination of actual observation and theoretical interpretation. And, finally, reverting to his early reached acceptance of the dominance of selection, he has supposed that selection reigns in every stage of the building up and breaking down of the architecture of the germ-plasm. Into these later elaborations of his theory Weismann has been followed by



few naturalists. To many they have seemed too remote from actual fact, too far removed from the possibility of confirmation or rejection by experiment or observation. But whatever be the ultimate fate of the theory as a whole, it is not to be disputed that it forms a stupendous addition to thought. For the time being, the current of inquiry has flowed to other lines. The study of variation is being pursued by new methods. Embryology has become experimental. Comparative anatomy has become statistical, and the most active intelligences in contemporary zoology are pursuing new lines of inquiry, and are too hot on the track of new ideas and new conquests of fact to be troubled overmuch as to the relation of the new to the old. Weismannism for the moment is the last phase of the direct Darwinian impulse, and the testing of the value of its final elaborations must await co-ordination with sides of knowledge that are not yet ripe.

#### ACADEMIC RECORDS.

**"The Royal Academy of Arts: a Complete Dictionary of Contributors and their Work from its Foundation in 1769 to 1904. By Algernon Graves. Vol. I. Abbaye to Carrington. London: Henry Graves and Co.; Bell. 1905. 42s. net.**

**"The Royal Academy and its Members. 1768-1830." By the late J. E. Hodgson R.A. and F. A. Eaton, Secretary. London: Murray. 1905. 21s. net.**

THE first of these books is the beginning of a most valuable work of reference. Mr. Graves, whose firm goes back to the time of Turner, and occupies the gallery that was originally the Boydells' Shakespeare Gallery and was afterwards tenanted by the British Institution, has compiled, for the purposes of his business, elaborate lists of pictures exhibited by the chief societies in London since exhibitions began. His useful "Dictionary of Artists who have exhibited in London" (1760-1893) was founded on this material, and his part in the catalogue of Sir Joshua Reynolds' works, and his other publications of the kind are contributions to history based on the same unrivalled store of notes. The present list was begun, he tells us, in 1873, to occupy an eight weeks' inactivity owing to a sprained knee, and has been posted up to date year by year. Those who have occasion to refer to exhibition catalogues for the purposes of dating and verifying pictures will have reason to bless Mr. Graves' accident and his energy. Instead of looking up the separate index and then the separate entries, say for some thirty years of the Academy catalogues in the case of each artist, they will here find all the entries brought together under the artist's name in its alphabetical order. A glance will show whether an artist did or did not exhibit at the Academy, and exactly what he exhibited, and save many a tedious visit to a library. Nor is this all. Even the addresses from which the pictures were sent are inserted, and what is of more importance, Mr. Graves has been able to supply, from newspaper reports and other sources, a number of titles of portraits unnamed in the earlier catalogues. He has further embodied all the marginal notes from Horace Walpole's catalogues, in the possession of Lord Rosebery. Painters, sculptors, architects, engravers, all are here, and the only omission in the scheme is the failure to indicate, by a letter, whether a work was an oil painting, water-colour or drawing. Blank pages are thoughtfully supplied at the end of each letter for those who care to continue the record for themselves. It is needless to enlarge on the value of such an aid to history, particularly for the earlier period, when the Academy was a more inclusive exhibition than it is now. Even to glance vaguely through its pages is interesting. We see, for example, exactly what pictures Blake sent to the Academy, we find a foreign refugee like Carpeaux appearing in the 'seventies, and besides names familiar, or too familiar, we find the large proportion we should expect of the unknown. Four hundred pages in double columns take us only to the beginning of the C's.

The other book is much less satisfactory. It tells us

very little that is not to be found elsewhere, arranges it badly, and carries the story no further than 1830. The history of the institution is broken up among notices of artists, and stops short of the critical period 1863-8 when the Commission sat and the Academy obtained its site from the nation. It would have been a useful thing, in view of current discussions, to set out the history of the institution, with the necessary documents, from the beginning till now, giving an account of the constitution and its changes, of the building, of the exhibition and its rules, of the administration of the schools and charities. To set the limit seventy-five years back is surely excessive reticence.

That a history of this sort was not attempted is the more to be regretted because the notices of the artists are of small value; perfunctory in the case of the minor people, very fitfully discriminating in the case of the more considerable. As an example of the first take the case of the Rev. W. Peters. "Few", we are told, "have seen his pictures, and fewer still remember them; but this bare outline of his career, which is all that exists in printed documents, is very suggestive of romantic interest. In reading it we become conscious of a human soul, possibly of a noble type, and with fine instincts, struggling there in the dim distance of the eighteenth century; and we ask ourselves vainly, were peace and clearness vouchsafed it ultimately, as the guerdon of its struggles and sufferings". This fine and vague sentiment is really thrown away upon the reverend gentleman. His work is quite sufficiently known. He varied between subjects such as the "Resurrection of a Pious Family" and little lascivious pieces that more exactly expressed his instincts, and led certainly to some trouble. On the other hand some considerable artists are treated with disparagement. Bacon the sculptor "though his artistic work was not of a high order, deserves notice from the fact that he probably executed more works of sculpture during the last quarter of the eighteenth century than any of his contemporaries". Flaxman is rather superciliously treated, and Alfred Stevens is dragged in for compassion as the case of a superficial student of Michael Angelo. Copley is "an example of that class of men who have no peculiar vocation towards Art". Constable's fame "is perhaps now as much above his deserts as in his lifetime it was below them". Such is the official criticism in its cooler moments, and its warmest are more warm than enlightening. "We do not ourselves profess to be utter Philistines", the authors oddly assert, but there are passages in the book that belie this modesty, the reference to J. F. Millet for example. "Of what value is criticism, and who shall estimate the true value of Art, when he sees the remains of Angelica Kauffman followed to the grave with almost regal honours, and not a century later a picture of two ugly French peasants saying their prayers in a ploughed field eagerly competed for and finally purchased at the price of a very considerable fortune?" Of what value, rather, are fashion and academical honours?

What is particularly amusing in these notices is the manner in which those members who gave trouble to the Academy are treated. Copley perhaps had a bad mark against him for this, and Constable for his critical attitude. Barry is treated with extreme rancour, and even Gainsborough does not escape. It is darkly hinted that the Academy has in its possession letters showing how loose of speech he was and possibly of conduct. It is usually Turner who comes in for these attentions of the pure and innocent biographer. But Turner, being the "good boy" of the Academy, escapes the usual inquisition. He left, by the way, not several hundred sketches to the nation, as the authors assert, but nineteen thousand.

#### A PRODUCT OF A BAD SYSTEM.

**"Problems in Manœuvre Tactics." After the German of Major Hoppenstedt. By Major J. H. V. Crowe R.A. London: Smith, Elder. 1905. 6s.**

IN this book the original German organisations have been adapted to those of our army with the view of assisting British officers in studying for their promotion or other examinations, and improving their

knowledge generally of the art of war. Major Crowe says in his preface that we possess no similar collection of problems in manœuvre tactics. He has however forgotten amongst others "Studies in Applied Tactics" by Griepenkerl, a rich mine from which many examples of "manœuvre orders" have been dug, and the examples of field exercises by Major-General Bengough published in 1891. We have met with more, but the former especially of the two works mentioned is in almost every library which exists for professional study. It is a somewhat dreary work, as dreary perhaps as the volumes on "Political Economy" which irritated the Philosopher of Chelsea. And this last addition to our military text-books is of much the same character. Yet it will no doubt command a sale, and will be appealed to by the bewildered candidates who have to satisfy examiners. There should be no need for such assistance. The place to study tactics is not in the study but on the ground. Strategy has been termed the art of making war on the map, and can be appreciated in a library. The solution of a tactical problem however depends on the circumstances of the moment. The state of the weather, the characteristics of the opponents, the moral of your men, the features of the ground, the presence or otherwise of cultivation or vegetation are dominating factors in all cases, and their force varies with each individual one. To teach tactics on paper is therefore an absolutely false and misleading method of instruction. The true way to instruct officers is for their seniors to set them problems in the country, to criticise their action on the spot, and to propound the correct solution on the ground itself. That is how officers will become interested in place of being bored by the tuition, and will become educated and capable leaders without the labour of befogging themselves over problems in their rooms, or spending their spare time in joining classes the numerous army tutors who now fill the places that should be occupied by generals and colonels. The army tutors are the only men who now really educate our officers at all. They do their best, as now does Major Crowe, to make what they can of an officer during the short time at disposal. If they cannot take their pupils to field-days, they have to fall back on "problems" to be solved on paper. But they recognise as clearly as do we that the system is a radically vicious one, and that officers will never take an interest in their work and become capable without undergoing unnecessary drudgery until their seniors can teach them, and show how orders are to be carried out in place of merely issuing them. The evil is very real and very vast. There are not more than perhaps a few dozen officers in our whole army who would trust themselves to criticise on the spot the work of officers set on lines which are given in this book. We have generals who have seen much so-called fighting before the Boer war, who are of no intellectual ability at all. We have many staff officers who have no experience and no notion of instruction, and whose opinions would carry no weight whatever with their audience. Whatever the reason may be, the fact remains that the average young officer is keenly anxious to learn but finds no one whose judgment he respects to help him. In his despair he falls back on the army tutor, who is usually an able man. If he is beyond the reach of the army tutor he buys a book such as this. He muddles through somehow, and seeing men go ahead without brains learns to regard reasoning as superfluous and the military art as a bore. Thus we organise Stormbergs and Colensos, and the public revile the British officer as the most stupid of his race. Yet barristers and doctors would be stupid too if our judges had never read law, and the surgeons at our hospitals knew nothing of anatomy. But till better times supervene we must, we suppose, have these "problems" and "solutions", which should be wholly superfluous or the study of only the keenly ambitious. In the present case we must also point out that though German organisations may have been adapted to those of our army, their tactical notions have not been so. We have discarded and rightly the close formations of German infantry and the artillery duels of the Franco-German war, and the officer who takes his ideas indiscriminately from German sources may find himself hung up when he faces the music at Aldershot.

#### THE MUSEUM ADDRESS.

"Museums: their History and their Use." With a Bibliography and List of Museums in the United Kingdom. By David Murray. 3 vols. Glasgow: MacLehose. 1904. 32s.

MANY a man, for no offence but success in his chosen walk in life, is condemned on occasion to sit in the presidential chair of some society for the furtherance of art or science, and sentenced to deliver an address. Forbidden for the nonce to discuss the law of torts, plenary inspiration, or the vices of his political opponents, he casts about for a subject, and with a worldly wisdom selects one that his own ignorance tells him is not likely to be over-familiar to his audience. What more promising subject than museums? institutions which we all know but rarely visit; a subject which finds no heading in the ordinary bibliographies and library catalogues, and no article in the encyclopædias (supplements of course excepted). So much the better for our president, to whom, as one with a first in the school of literæ humaniores, lack of matter leaves but the more scope for beauty of form. He begins: The word Museum—a spot dedicated to the Muses—is best known to us from the great institution at Alexandria founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus in the third century before Christ, &c. Touching lightly on the "Metallotheca" of Mercati or the "Museum metallicum" of Aldrovandi, he hastens to Tradescant and his ark, subsequently absorbed in the Ashmolean, to Dr. John Woodward, and to Sir Hans Sloane. Opportunities for banter presented by the dragon's eggs, unicorn's horns, and mermaid's ribs of the old collectors are never allowed to slip by a president who knows that his duty is entertainment no less than instruction. Finished at last with the obvious, he relapses into local details, and fills up his hour with polished platitudes.

When Dr. David Murray was elected president of the Glasgow Archæological Society in 1897, he, resembling his predecessors in ignorance that the thing had been done before, prepared the usual kind of address on this favourite topic. Where he differed from his predecessors was in his gradual discovery of the fact that the subject "possessed a considerable literature", and in the perseverance that led him to elaborate his paper into the first of these volumes, and to compile a catalogue of the literature big enough to fill the other two. He may be complimented on the result. There are omissions of course, even from the list of old collectors for whom Dr. Murray shows such sympathy; but, take it for what it is, the account is so detailed and so accurate that it will either render all such addresses needless in future or serve as a store upon which a long succession of presidents may draw. The general reader will find herein many items of curious interest, especially in the chapter on "Some Old Exhibits", which are discussed at length, with the intention of showing that giants' bones, balsam of mummy, stag's tears and the like, however ridiculous they appear to this electric-lighted age, were preserved in accordance with the best teaching of the time. The modern museum might, it is therefore suggested, devote space in its historical gallery to representing this stage of museum-development. The only such attempt that we recall in this country is the exhibit of Sloane's fossils in the Natural History Museum. This and other suggestions by Dr. Murray are worth the attention of museum authorities. An excellent index will render the numerous references of use to the student, while the beautifully printed bibliography, which we have tested in many places and not found wanting, is a work remarkable not only because of the circumstances in which it was compiled, but for its unique character and intrinsic value.

But elaborated though it be, and replete with marvellous erudition, this "History" is only the conventional address writ long. As a relation of facts it ventures into the nineteenth century (naturally spoken of as the "present century") only on tip-toe, barely glancing at museums outside Europe. The influence of political changes on the development of museums is not



hinted at; the connexion of the history with philanthropy, with popular education, with advancing or migrating culture, may here and there be casually mentioned, but receives no philosophic treatment. "The Uses of Museums" are dismissed in a final chapter of twenty-seven pages, full of wise counsel, but revealing neither an inside knowledge of museum work nor a broad grasp of the subject. Dr. Murray recognises that the methods and arrangements of museums fifty years hence may be wholly different from those of to-day, but he has not elucidated the principles of evolution or used his profound knowledge of the past for any prognostic of the future.

#### NOVELS.

"The Confessions of an Ambitious Mother." London: Heinemann. 1905. 3s. 6d.

These Confessions claim to be something of a human document. They are that, but not in the sense their penitent intended. She probably did not have the social successes here described, but assuredly she desired them; and it is the frank revelation of vulgar social ambition, typical of a considerable number of her fellow-countrywomen, which gives the book a value to the social pathologist. It might more fitly have been entitled the Complacencies of a Mean Mind, since it is the complacency, the serene conviction of this shrewd, capable, unscrupulous woman that there can be no more satisfying ambitions than those she cherishes which throw a real illumination on the type of character she represents. The study of such a character in fiction would be intolerable; it has not a single redeeming vice; shown to us here by its possessor it does not attempt redemption; it is unashamedly, unaffectedly, unsuspectingly sordid. Actuality is its only plea. She has ambitions for her children, but not a grain of love; lies as a mere physical necessity; condemns to ruin or suicide the unknown and the intimate with equal indifference and equal stupidity. Her real and very considerable acuteness ends in certain directions in an incomprehensible abyss. She wishes she "could have another life in which to feel the reality of conventional living, conventional thinking", yet never suspects that she is the conventionalist. She smiles to think that in a certain crisis with her daughter a novelist would be sure to make her "show her heart". She does not show it, because, poor thing, she has no heart to show; yet she offers us her inhumanity as a criticism of romance. She regards the recluse as "a discarded building-stone in the structure of civilisation", by which name she dignifies the scum of plutocratic snobbery through which she struggles to breathe. The book might be regarded as items of fashionable intelligence arranged as the Police News of the recording angel. As such it is edifying in its ignoble way, because it makes plain, as only unconscious confession can, the feet of mire and iron with which social ambition treads down its own soul in the strange craving to raise its nose higher. "I wanted to be a part of the world's idea of fashionable life." That is her proud justification of her existence, and could anything finer be invented for her tomb? But she might have engaged someone of taste to revise her grossest references to the English aristocracy—since she so worships their regard—and someone of knowledge to correct her blunderings with titles of courtesy and classical mythology.

"The Seething Pot." By George A. Birmingham. London: Arnold. 1905. 6s.

If Mr. Birmingham is as wise as he is witty he will take good care that his real name is not revealed to the members of certain circles in Ireland. As a novel "The Seething Pot" has many obvious faults, but as a study of political and social conditions it is brilliant. The hero, Sir Gerald Geoghegan, is the son of a man whose story is really that of Smith O'Brien: he comes to Ireland from Australia to find the land-war at its height, and is denounced by a Nationalist orator while stepping out of the train that brings him for the first

time to the home of his family. But the personal influence of one John O'Neill, a man who has much in common with Parnell, enlists Geoghegan in the popular cause, and when the party splits the young baronet makes a futile attempt to support his leader. The novel practically ends with the death of O'Neill, deserted and heart-broken. Mr. Birmingham has not adhered too closely to actual events: his O'Neill, a man whose private life has no weak point, is deposed because he decides to support the Liberal opposition pledged to Home Rule whereas the Roman Catholic Bishops order the Nationalist party to maintain in office a Conservative Government which is, in the face of violent attacks, undertaking legislation to benefit their Church. The majority of the party are Catholics before Irishmen. Thus the situation of fifteen years ago is rather ingeniously twisted, although O'Neill, like Parnell, is able to taunt his enemies with their subservience to an English political party. Mr. Birmingham makes good use of the standing problem of grazing-lands in Connaught, but his knowledge of the Land Acts is faulty. The book is of real value as a review of Irish clericalism, the author recognising fully the spiritual earnestness of certain priests who in their political capacity countenance very crooked dealings, and further acknowledging that some of the anti-clerical elements desire to upset priestly influence because it stands in the way of moral anarchy. The political psychology is relieved by a good deal of humour, and by some daring sketches of living people. The unhappy experience of an Ulster land-agent imported to manage a Connaught estate is excellent comedy (perfectly true to life), while we shall be surprised if Mr. George Moore's friends can read the book without amusement or Sir Harry Johnston's admirers without dismay.

"The Taming of the Brute." By Frances Harrod (Frances Forbes-Robertson). London: Methuen. 1905. 6s.

There seems to be no overwhelming reason for laying the scene of this story in eighteenth-century Wales. Mrs. Harrod has not quite caught the manner of the period, and a sprinkling of adverbs like "vastly" hardly seasons the modern flavour of the dish. For her heroine is rather a headstrong young lady of to-day than a contemporary of Sophia Weston, and to watch her in the Pump Room at Bath is to look on at a modern fancy-dress ball, conducted with spirit yet never entirely convincing. Younger sons occasionally loaf on the ancestral estates and sink into low company even in this enlightened age, and girls, we believe, still fall in love with detrimentals. They were probably more unlikely then than now to set about the reclamation of a black sheep by quartering themselves (with a chaperon, be it understood) unexpectedly in his sheepfold. However, Mrs. Harrod writes gracefully, and if she wants a duel or two to lend variety to her story, she is justified in choosing a setting which will admit such incidents. Her Welsh peasants seem to us to be superfluous and not very lifelike, but do not count for much in a variation on the Cymon and Iphigenia theme, in which the youth is reclaimed not only from uncouthness but from coarse vices.

"Gossip: a Novel." By Benjamin Swift. London: Duckworth. 1905. 6s.

Mr. Benjamin Swift is unfortunate in his friends if they never tell him gossip more worthy of repetition than the stuff contained in his latest novel. He seems to us to have none of the qualities required for recording the annals of a country neighbourhood: his touch is heavy, his determination to write brilliantly and unexpectedly is not reinforced by the gift of humour, and he fails signally to catch the tone of a district devoted to hunting. He is not at ease in the saddle, for all his skilfully worked up allusions to matters connected with the cult of the horse. His story is chiefly occupied by the not too pleasant theme of a middle-aged woman's infatuation for a boy, while the plot turns upon the problem of the priority birth of an elderly lady's twin sons. An atmosphere of midwifery gains no fragrance from twenty years' keeping, and Mr. Swift might do better in art if his knowledge of

science were less painfully exact. Not that he understands all branches of science, for though we are ready to credit him with any amount of medical knowledge we resent his excursions into ornithology. He might surely have been content to Americanise his style without transplanting such a bird as the whip-poor-will into a Southern English county.

**"Hay Fever."** By Walter Herries Pollock and Guy C. Pollock. London: Longmans. 1905. 3s. 6d.

Now that novelists take their mission so seriously an extravaganza which really amuses should be sure of a welcome. "Hay Fever" is farce of the frankest kind: a respectable stockbroker, taking an overdose of an amateur's prescription for the cure of that distressing complaint, plunges into a medley of absurd adventures. Chance puts him in possession of the professional wardrobe of a fatuous detective, and he runs riot, the enraged official toiling after him in vain while his faithful clerk follows at the tail of the procession. We need not enter into this medley of burglaries and motor-cars, but may express gratification at finding another proof—for Stevenson's "Wrong Box" was written a long time ago—that good writing counts for as much in a burlesque as in a psychological study.

**"The Siren's Net."** By Florence Roosevelt. London: Unwin. 1905. 6s.

According to Miss Roosevelt, and there seems no reason to doubt her statement that her story is "transcribed from life", a fatal snare is spread for those who have too great faith in the power of their own voices, rather than in that of the "siren". Betrayed by their vanity, by unscrupulous teachers, and opera-agents, they come to grief on the rock of public opinion through incompetence and weakness, and even when genuinely gifted may be overwhelmed in the whirlpool of jealous competition and malicious opposition. Miss Roosevelt would have been better advised to have written a pamphlet or newspaper article than a novel on the subject of which she writes with evident knowledge, though by the way it is strange that a lady so well informed in musical matters should spell *Lamoureux* as she evidently pronounces it "*Lamereux*". She has not the gift of story-telling, her characters lack vitality and reality, and the plot is merely a series of somewhat uninteresting incidents of student life strung together. However the book may prove useful as a warning to the American girl who, with the confidence in her own powers characteristic of the nation, comes to Europe in the hope of one day rivalling Patti or Melba.

**"The Ring from Jaipur."** By Frances M. Peard. London: Smith, Elder. 1904. 6s.

With nineteen others already to her credit the author has made this, her twentieth novel, quite a readable story. Work turned out in such quantity is quite certain to want distinction. The narrative flows steadily on in an easy style to its conventional ending. The Indian surroundings are correctly drawn and wisely confined to the European aspect of cantonment life, with as few native lay figures as might be. The theme is not a new one—a young woman who marries in a hurry a man really too good for her if she knew it, whom she treats badly and nearly loses before she finds out her mistake. The ring from Jaipur—a charm to bring back errant hearts, does little but give a title to the book. The story might in stronger hands have been better worked out without it. Indeed if the author would concentrate herself more her work might have the strength which it lacks.

**"Doctor Silex."** By J. B. Harris-Burland. London: Ward, Lock. 1905. 6s.

A millionaire of a type that is getting to be almost too common (at least in fiction), a beautiful "Princess", a Polar expedition on a huge scale and—to employ a cliché such as Mr. Harris-Burland revels in—that expedition armed to the teeth; these are some of the

(Continued on page 676.)

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things that lead us up to—what? To the Polar island of Asturnia with its 200,000 inhabitants, all of them descended from a handful of Normans who harried by our King Henry I. sought refuge at the beginning of the twelfth century in the icy North. Of course they had penetrated where all modern expeditions had failed, had established a kingdom, and continued the customs and language of this old life of Normandy until—aided by an earthquake of awful extent—the Silix Expedition burst into their silent sea and brought explosive shells to play against rock-hurling mangonels. A story that deals with wild improbabilities should be set forth with such art as to make the reader believe it for the time being as a record of facts. To such a pitch of art Mr. Harris-Burland has not yet attained. His story will be liked best by those voracious boy-readers who, so long as they get movement and fighting, are prepared to swallow anything.

#### NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Home Life in France." By Miss Betham-Edwards. London: Methuen. 1905. 7s. 6d. net.

All who are interested in matters French, in the people, their customs and domestic life, will find in this volume abundant information and entertainment. Miss Betham-Edwards makes no ambitious efforts to describe and expound the deeper matters of French politics or religion or to dive deep into national psychology as has been the recent fashion in most books written by the native of one country about the inhabitants of another. She has merely written very pleasant sketches of the everyday aspects of French society of the classes which have become familiar to her by long residence and intimate acquaintance. Smart and fast sets are happily excluded. French eating and drinking, dressing, amusements, family life, domestic economies, the French girl as the wife in prospect, the French youth as prospective husband, domestic servants, the priest and the pastor, the woman in business, and a whole gallery of portraits pass under review and furnish much matter for comparison with English counterparts or contrasts. Two chapters in particular will be extremely useful to English readers; one on the somewhat obscure institution, since we have nothing to compare with it, the Family Council, whose working the writer explains very clearly; the other on the Civil Code and Family Life. Miss Betham-Edwards selects matter which on the whole may be intended more for women than for men, but the latter will not enjoy it the less on that account.

"Betting and Gambling." Edited by E. Seebohm Rowntree. London: Macmillan. 1905. 5s. net.

This collection of essays by various writers on what is quite justly styled "a national evil" sets out what is already fairly well known as to its characteristics and extent among almost all classes. Perhaps the essay on "The Deluded Sportsman" by a Bookmaker is a little more esoteric than the others if we except that on "Gambling among Women" which is not based quite so soundly on such a wide personal experience; but few would doubt that betting and gambling are increasing amongst women. With them even more than with men it is a reaction against their monotonous lives and they have eagerly accepted the facilities the bookies have put in their way. Other essays are "The Ethics of Gambling," "The Extent of Gambling," "Stock Exchange Gambling," "Crime and Gambling," "Gambling and Citizenship," "Existing Legislation" and "The Repression of Gambling". There are also appendices on various topics connected with the subject, such as Lord Davey's Bill for suppressing street gambling. As regards suppression of gambling it is not probable that legislation will go much further than is proposed by that Bill. Otherwise improvement must depend, as it has done in the cognate vice or foolishness of drinking, upon the growth of better sense and better taste; and that is a slow growth as the case of drinking shows. As Mr. Rowntree knows well, it is easier to reveal very regrettable phases of our social life than to remove them, and the gambling spirit is almost as prevalent as poverty. But as a study the book is very good reading.

"Electromagnetic Theory of Light." By Charles Emerson Curry. Part I. London: Macmillan. 1905. 12s. net.

Dr. Curry's account of the electromagnetic theory of light promises to be very useful to students of mathematical physics, for whom no English book of exactly similar scope is at present available. The mathematician will find its pages at once lucid and accurate. This first part deals with such phenomena of light as can be fully explained by the beautiful theory of Clerk Maxwell, whilst the second part is to treat of those cases in which that theory has hitherto failed to yield a satisfactory explanation. Light, which is not merely the most beautiful of

natural phenomena but our chief means of investigation, furnishes many interesting problems to the physicist and mathematician. It was long believed to consist of material particles, emitted from luminous bodies like projectiles. But when Roemer showed, in the seventeenth century, that it travelled with a speed of nearly two hundred thousand miles in a second, that hypothesis was doomed—though it is true that recent research into radio-activity has considerably enlarged our views of the speed which material particles can assume. The wave-theory of light, regarded as vibrations in an hypothetical ether, took more than a century to develop. It paved the way for Clerk Maxwell's startling discovery of the electro-magnetic theory of light; and this received a late but satisfactory confirmation from the experiments of Herz, who proved in the last decades of the nineteenth century that electrical waves were propagated with the same speed and under the same laws as those of light, differing from them only in wave-length. It is the mathematical explanation of this fact which Dr. Curry undertakes to set forth, starting with the fundamental equations by which Maxwell defined the properties of the ether. Maxwell's theory is still inadequate to account completely for all the observed facts, but this only shows that there is yet much work to do in extending it. Dr. Curry's second part will be awaited with interest by all who value his contributions to the study of physics.

"Italian Gems." Vol. I. Francesca da Rimini, by Silvio Pellico. Vol. III. "The Sacred Hymns and Napoleonic Ode," by Alessandra Manzoni. Both translated with Notes and Introductions by the Rev. Joel Foote Bingham. London: Frowde. 1905 and 1904. 8s. and 12s. net.

Pellico's "Francesca da Rimini" (published in 1814) is dead to this generation as a tragedy of human interest, dead, tame, dull, flat, even though it once encountered the applause of Alfieri, Leopardi, Foscolo and Byron. It is writ in choice poetical Italian, and as such has its uses as an exercise—none too exhilarating—for the struggling student of the Tuscan tongue. But we cannot understand why Mr. Bingham should have been at the pains to put it into English blank verse: we have nothing with this rendering. Manzoni's "Inni Sacri" and "Cinque Maggio" still live and will live for ever. It would be hard to pitch upon Italian poetry more impossible to render into English, and we regret we must confess that Mr. Bingham's verse does but make a mock of Manzoni, and often falls below the level of doggerel. Yet he has the hardihood to quote Rossetti: "The only true motive for putting poetry into a fresh language must be to endow a fresh nation, as far as possible, with one more possession of beauty". Assuredly Mr. Bingham has not endowed the English nation with any other such possession: we cannot pretend to judge what the verdict will be in his native America.

"In Defence of a King." By H. S. Wheatly Crowe. New Edition. Liverpool: Howell. 1904. 1s. net.

"Sir", Dr. Johnson would have said, "the gentleman has good principles". We cannot, however, imagine how he came to think that this naive and boyish little book would add anything to the Caroline Apologia. Apparently fecit indignatio librum. But Mr. Crowe (we are not certain of his rank in the army) should have written it for private circulation. When the 12-inch guns are pounding at one another, bows and arrows, or other such small artillery, are of little use in the battle. Still his devotion to the dolorous King is touching. He rightly points out the appallingly troublesome situation which was awaiting Charles on his accession. Also that episcopacy and the militia were the Hougoumont of that great struggle. About neither could the King have given way without ceasing to be a King or a man of principle. It was not merely that bishops were better administrators of the Church than buff-coats; they were its divinely commissioned rulers. As for the militia, might it not be granted, asked the commissioners, for a time to Parliament? "No, by God", replied Charles, "not for an hour! You have asked that of me which was never asked of a king, and with which I would not trust my wife and children". O si sic omnia!

"The Classics and Modern Training." By S. G. Ashmore. London: Putnam. 1905. 5s. net.

This little volume of addresses is a plea for the classics in modern education; and the greater part is concerned with the defence of Greek as the language in most danger. Mr. Ashmore's attitude is philosophic rather than polemic, and he makes very plain, though without much originality of idea or expression, the grounds on which Latin and Greek—which attain the height of concrete expression—excel any later languages. We like best his plea for the study of archaeology. He touches here on the chief deficiency in the Oxford and Cambridge schools.

"Monarch the Big Bear." By E. Thompson Seton. London: Constable. 1905. 5s.

Mr. Thompson Seton improves. This "historical novel of Bear life" is free from the sentiment and preciosities that appear in some of the best of the author's work. The tale



does not pretend to be a greater thing than it is; and would be read with pleasure by boys who found some of the earlier books to be rather what they ought to like to read than what their unprejudiced judgment would select. But for the marginal outlines the illustrations would be good.

"Classical Echoes in Tennyson." By Wilfrid P. Mustard. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1905. 5s. net.

The Professor of Latin at Columbia University anticipates, and would discount, criticism unfavourable to yet another list of classical echoes in Tennyson. He admits that in the past the thing was overdone but urges in his preface that to-day there is on the other hand too much sneering at "hunters after remote resemblances and far-fetched analogies".

"Sun-Babies." By Cornelia Sorabji. London: Murray. 1905. 6s. net.

By way of impartial test we submitted this volume to two lady critics aged twelve, deeply read in the literature of children's books. It was returned with the verdict that it was too like a geography lesson. From this judgment we wholly dissent. It may be said of the stories that they follow the method and manner made popular by Kipling and Mrs. Steel: but the matter has much that is original and a good deal that is altogether delightful, albeit the language is somewhat idealised for such speakers. We should be grateful to Miss Sorabji for this glimpse of Indian child-life.

For this Week's Books see page 678.

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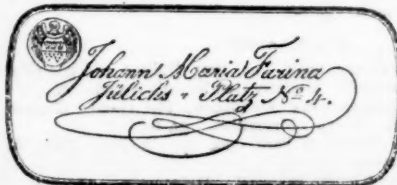
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Applications should be made on the official form, to be obtained from the Clerk of the London County Council, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W., or at the Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C. The applications must be sent in not later than 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 3rd day of June, 1905, addressed to the Clerk of the Council as above, and accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be held to be a disqualification for appointment.

G. L. GOMME,

Clerk of the London County Council.

The County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W.  
11th May, 1905.

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The 21st ANNUAL EXHIBITION will be held in the ROYAL ALBERT HALL, S.W., on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, May 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th. ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING every day after Wednesday.

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**GLEN DEEP, LIMITED.****From the Directors' Quarterly Report to 30th April, 1905.**

Total Yield in Fine Gold from all sources .. .. 19,243'399 oz.  
Total Yield in Fine Gold per ton on tonnage milled basis .. .. 8'672 dwts.

<b>WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.</b>			
Dr.	Cost.	Cost per ton milled.	
	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
To Mining Expenses—			
Mining .. ..	£31,209 1 10		
Developing .. ..	5,060 14 4		
Milling Expenses .. ..	36,269 16 2	0 16	4'141
Cyaniding Expenses .. ..	7,159 4 9	0 3	2'770
General Expenses .. ..	4,766 12 9	0 2	1'777
Head Office Expenses .. ..	3,182 5 3	0 1	5'209
	1,804 14 10	0 0	9'760
Working Profit .. ..	53,192 13 9	1 3	11'657
	27,689 2 9	0 12	5'739
	£80,881 16 6	£1 16	5'396
Cr.	Value.	Value per ton milled.	
By Gold Account .. ..	£80,881 16 6	£1 16	5'396
Dr.			
To Net Profit .. ..	£27,888 6 3		
Cr.			
By Balance Working Profit brought down .. ..	£27,689 2 9		
Interest .. ..	199 3 6		
	£27,888 6 3		

NOTE.—The 10 per cent. Tax on Profits due to the Government of the Transvaal on the profits for the quarter is estimated to amount to £2,353.  
The Capital Expenditure for the quarter has amounted to £2,233 os. 4d.

**LANGLAAGTE DEEP, LIMITED.****From the Directors' Quarterly Report to 30th April, 1905.**

Total Yield in Fine Gold from all sources .. .. 20,846'120 ozs.  
Total Yield in Fine Gold per ton on tonnage milled basis .. .. 7'240 dwts.

<b>WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.</b>			
Dr.	Cost.	Cost per Ton milled.	
	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
To Mining Expenses—			
Mining .. ..	£44,644 15 8		
Developing .. ..	4,739 3 10		
Milling Expenses .. ..	49,383 19 6	0 17	1'820
Cyaniding Expenses .. ..	6,136 18 11	0 2	1'577
General Expenses .. ..	5,320 14 8	0 1	10'176
Head Office Expenses .. ..	3,418 3 0	0 1	2'246
	1,682 4 5	0 0	7'011
Working Profit .. ..	65,942 0 6	1 2	10'830
	21,675 8 1	0 7	6'338
	£87,617 8 7	£1 10	5'168
Cr.	Value.	Value per ton milled.	
By Gold Account .. ..	£87,617 8 7	£1 10	5'168
Dr.			
To Interest .. ..	£2,875 8 10		
Net Profit .. ..	18,799 19 3		
	£21,675 8 1		
Cr.			
By Balance Working Profit brought down .. ..	£21,675 8 1		

NOTE.—The 10 per cent. Tax on Profits due to the Government of the Transvaal on the profits for the quarter is estimated to amount to £1,672.  
The Capital Expenditure for the quarter has amounted to £3,644 5s. 2d.

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**NITRATE PRODUCERS' STEAMSHIP CO.**

THE tenth annual general meeting of the Nitrate Producers' Steamship Company, Limited, was held yesterday at the offices of Messrs. Lawther, Latta & Co., the managers, 20 Billiter Buildings, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. John Latta, chairman of the Company.

The Secretary (Mr. James A. Walker) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: I regret being unable to report the slightest improvement in the shipping trade. On the contrary, I am compelled to give it as my opinion that things are to-day worse than when we had the pleasure of meeting you at this time last year. Under such circumstances, we feel sure you will be quite satisfied with the profits shown, which are practically the same as last year. We are not able to put our average amount to reserve for depreciation, &c., but in placing £11,500 to that account there is not much cause for complaint. In reference to that fund, I may mention that nothing has ever been drawn from it for the purpose of exceptional repairs, or indeed for repairs of any kind, the steamers having at all times been maintained in excellent condition out of revenue, which is an important feature. This fund has, therefore, steadily increased, and during the ten years of the existence of the Company no less than £184,000 has been assigned to it. This is practically twice the average amount of capital which has been employed by the Company since its inception, an achievement which must give you confidence in the intrinsic merit of your investment. Turning to the figures, there is one item which I have been asked to explain, and that is, why the managers' percentage on profits should this year be higher than last year, the Company having earned no more profit. A very proper question to ask. It is accounted for in this way. Your managers from the first have only been paid commission conditional upon each voyage showing a profit of not less than 10 per cent. of the book value of each steamer. This year your managers have earned such commission on all but two voyages, which was not the case last year, and this explains the difference. During the past year we have suffered a good deal from labour troubles on the West Coast of South America; indeed, these troubles are becoming almost chronic, with the result that our disbursement accounts in that part of the world are rapidly increasing, and it will no doubt be a surprise to you to hear that since we sent out our first steamers "Col. J. T. North" and "Avery Hill," in 1896, our disbursement accounts have just doubled. In those days the expenses on the West Coast of South America were exceedingly moderate, but if they go on increasing at the present ratio these ports look like becoming amongst the most expensive in the world. To make matters worse, the Chilean Government has enacted a new charge for lights, which alone swells the expenses in the present balance sheet to the extent of £700—a most excessive and, it seems to me, unjust charge. Such increase of expenditure, coupled with the reduced freights now obtaining both outwards and homewards, would make profit almost impossible but for the exceptional facilities we have, at great expense, established on the West Coast whereby quick despatch can be secured. In other words, our profits are almost entirely due to the suitability of our boats for this particular trade, and to their being quickly turned round. Depression has been so severe, and the unfortunate consequence so far-reaching, that I feel sure it will take many years to get the shipping trade back on to the lines of even ten years ago. It is, however, a long lane that has no turning, and we can only hope that a general improvement will set in before long. I am pleased to be able to say that the steamers are all fully employed, although the rates of freight to-day current are not quite so good as at this time last year; but by constant care and economy it will be our earnest endeavour to meet you next year, in any case, with such a balance as will enable us to continue our dividend, and also to give some attention to the reserve account for depreciation, &c. I have now the pleasure to propose "That a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the last six months, free of income-tax, be paid; that the sum of £11,500 be placed to the reserve account for depreciation, &c.; and that the sum of £1,062 15s. 10d. be carried forward to next year's account."

Colonel Church seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gilbert G. Blane proposed the re-election of Messrs. Gamble North and Thomas S. Short as directors of the Company, remarking that the shareholders had reason to be grateful to the directors for the excellent way in which they had carried on the business of the Company.

Mr. R. A. Lawther seconded this, and it was adopted, Mr. Short making a brief acknowledgment on behalf of Mr. North and himself.

Mr. E. W. Stephens proposed "That the sum of £800 be paid to the directors for their services during the year terminating on 30th April, free of income-tax."

Colonel Church seconded the motion, and it was carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

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